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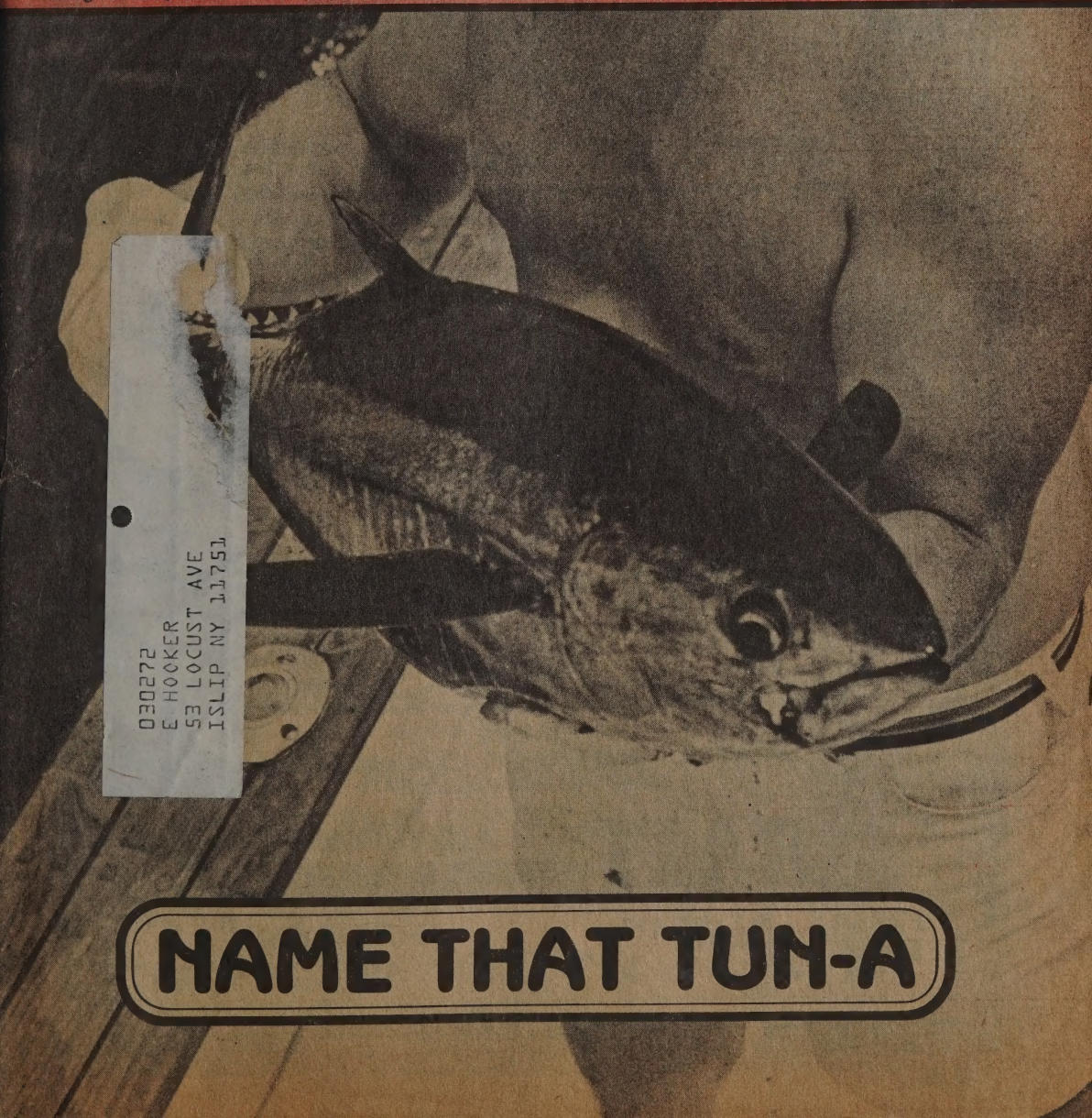
August 13th, 1981 ★ Volume 16, Number 32 ★ 76th Year of Publishing ★ SEVENTY-CENTS



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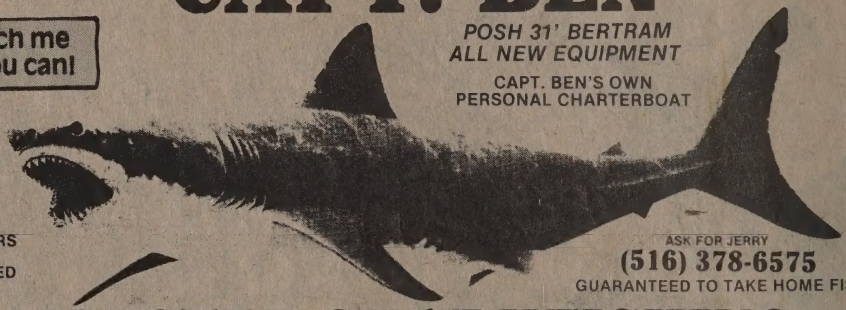

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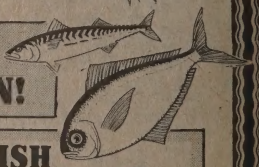

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

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Volume 16, Number 32 August 13th, 1981

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Al Ristori helps clear up some questions on tuna identification in his article, "Name That Tun-A." See page 16 of this issue. Cover photo by Pete Barrett.

COMING NEXT WEEK: **BREAKING THE 1000 LB. BARRIER**

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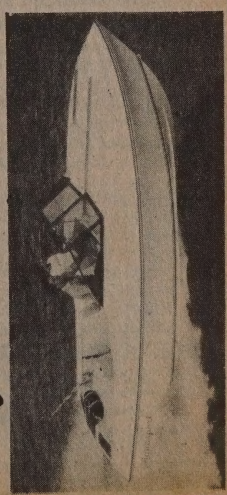

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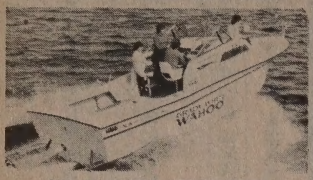

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Pass It On...

SURFSIDE III TUNA CLUB

The Surfside III Tuna Club's Annual Family Day was held on August 2nd, with nine boats in the event which included categories for women and children:

Women's Division: Joan Runge, 5.15 fluke on the Waterbed II; Susan Walters, 2.11 fluke on the Violator; Mary Ann Sterlacci, 2.7 fluke on the Hi-Way II.

Children's Division: Richie Ferri, Jr., 4.10 fluke, Roman Coke; Debbie Sterlacci, 2.6 fluke on the Hi-Way II, and Shawn Bower, 2.3 fluke on the Serena II.

BOATING COURSE

A FREE Boating Course in outboard/Inboard/Sail will be offered by the Patchogue Bay Power Squadron. Registration will be Monday, September 14, 8PM at Patchogue High School, Buffalo Avenue, Medford.

The 10 to 12 week U.S. Power Squadron course is open to men, women and teenagers. Ownership of a boat is not required. The course will include boating skills, maintenance and safety.

The U.S. Power Squadron is the largest educational institution in the world dedicated to the teaching of safe handling of boats.

ASF TO BUILD ON A STATE BY STATE BASIS

The campaign to organize the more than 60 million angling enthusiasts in the United States into a nationwide federation to promote and protect the future of sport fishing will continue, but with the major emphasis on encouraging the formation of state-wide groups, according to the American Fishing Tackle Manufacturers Association (AFTMA).

In a recent report on the status of its efforts to organize the American Sportfishing Federation (ASF), AFTMA acknowledged that some of its first-year goals were not met. "However, a firm foundation for such an organization was laid, important lessons were learned and significant progress was made," the AFTMA report states.

"Building on our experience over the past year, we believe that a politically potent nationwide federation of fishermen and sport fishing groups can be organized, initially on a state-by-state basis and eventually on the national level."

The manpower and other resources for organizing state federations already is available, AFTMA noted, in the more than a dozen ASF state coordinators and in scores of leaders of various state and local organizations that have been functioning successfully on a local level. "They have the know-how, the state-wide contacts and, most important, the enthusiasm to get the job done," AFTMA points out.

To assist the state organizers, AFTMA will turn over to them the names and addresses of persons and organizations in the respective states who have joined or indicated an interest in joining the ASF. In addition, AFTMA will assist in publicizing and promoting state organizing efforts and urge its members to do the same.

AFTMA also will provide the medium through which state leaders can come together to exchange information and ideas and to plan joint legislative ventures on regional or national bases.

By focusing first on developing state-wide federations, AFTMA believes it will solve its biggest problem. "Organizing thousands of clubs and millions of individuals across the country on a state and national level simultaneously simply is too complex and too difficult; we attempted to accomplish too much too soon," Executive Vice President Tom Schedler noted. "It is now apparent that a more practical and more manageable approach is to concentrate our efforts first on the formation of strong, viable state federations. After this has been accomplished we can move ahead to the second step—bringing the state federations together to form a truly cohesive national federation."

OPPOSITION TO WATT BUILDS

The controversy over the resignation of the Secretary of Interior, Mr. James G. Watt because of his poor environmental record and present stance (which is pro development, rather than pro conservation), becomes louder each day. Four major national environmental organizations, the Sierra Club, Audubon Society, National Wildlife Federation and the Friends of the Earth, have called for Mr. Watt to resign.

The public owned "Public Lands" should be administrated by governmental officials who want our natural resources protected. The wilderness areas that took many years to preserve must not be destroyed overnight at the whim of uncaring persons. The public has a right to be heard on this matter and the FRIENDS OF LONG ISLAND organization is supporting the efforts to have the Secretary replaced. Petition forms made available by the SIERRA CLUB can be obtained by writing to Friends of Long Island, P.O. Box 55, Seaford, N.Y. 11783.

HUNTINGTON ANGLERS'

The Huntington Anglers' Club held a 3 club Derby for striped bass and weakfish on the weekend of July 24-26. The Huntington Anglers' of Huntington, Mill River Rod & Gun Club of Bayville and the Harbor Fishing Club of Huntington partici-

pated with the following results:

Striped bass, 14 lbs. 5 oz., John Ambrosio, Huntington Anglers. No other bass weighed in.

Weakfish: Pete Calandra, Huntington Anglers', 1st prize, 12 lbs. 6 oz.

Weakfish, 2nd prize: Tom Wilenski, Mill River, 10 lbs. 4 oz.

A hearty breakfast was held by the host Mill River Rod & Gun club.

NEW "WHEEL-A-WEIGH" FACILITATES ONE-PERSON BOAT LAUNCHING

Ever feel like you want to throw a small boat on top of the car and take off for awhile on a solo boating adventure? The major snag is in launching the craft alone without dragging it, and without doing cosmetic or structural damage.

Boaters can get around the back strain and expense that may be involved in such a venture with Bodge Engineering's new "Wheel-A-Weigh" caddy system. The Wheel-A-Weigh mounts on the transom and features reversible wheels which allow the boat to be hauled right-side-up or in an inverted position. Changing wheel positions merely involves the pulling and replacing of two pins, or the wheels and stems can be removed entirely by removing all four pins.

Constructed of aluminum with heavy duty plastic or delrin (for inflatables) wheels, the Wheel-A-Weigh comes complete with wheel brackets (which are permanently affixed to the boat), all necessary hardware, and uncomplicated installations directions. Stainless steel transom brackets for some models are optionally available.

The Wheel-A-Weigh is offered with 8 in. or 10 in. wheels for standard craft, and with tire sizes of 1.75 x 10, 4.0 x 16, and 6.5 x 16 for inflatable boats. Depending on size, the units weigh between 13 and 31 lbs.

From Bodge Engineering, 5047 Sixth St., Carpinteria, CA 93013.

STREN 450 CLUB IS TOUGH NEW SALT WATER CLUB

A prestigious new saltwater fishing club has been created for the most skilled surf anglers in the U.S. by the tackle industry's leading fishing line manufacturer.

The DuPont Company, maker of Stren fishing line, has founded the "Stren" 450 Club to recognize surf fishermen who demonstrate prowess to cast 450 feet. The club will be operated for DuPont Stren under the direction of Ken Lauer, an outdoor writer and broadcaster who is one of the nation's leading authorities on surf fishing.

"Our idea is that surf fishing requires some unusual skills, and the time has come to recognize fishermen with those skills," Lauer told writers attending the 54th annual conference of the Outdoor Writers Association of America (OWAA).

"The key to good casting and successful surf fishing is an ability to get the bait out where the fish are," said Lauer. "Presenting the bait to them correctly requires skill in handling the rod and reel. We want to recognize fishermen who have demonstrated proficiency in doing this."

Although Lauer gave writers a preview of the "Stren" 450 Club here, the first public cast-off for the tourney will be at the Nag's Head Surf Fishing tournament October 7-10, 1981. The second major cast-off to qualify for membership will be November 4-7 in connection with the Cape Hatteras Invitational Surf Fishing Tournament, the largest surf fishing tournament on the Eastern Seaboard.

Lauer estimated that as many as two million anglers participate in surf fishing.

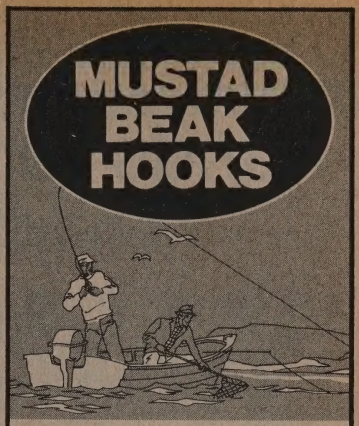
Earning membership in this exclusive Stren 450 Club will not be an empty honor. In addition to a special yellow and black club patch, a 2400-yard spool of line and a Stren jacket and cap, members will receive a Fenwick 9 ft. surf spinning rod, a Fenwick tackle box, a Pflueger saltwater spinning reel, a Rapala knife, two new Normark saltwater lures and other awards.

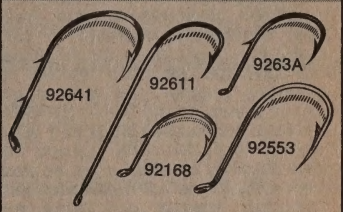
Qualification for membership will be accomplished under the direction of Lauer, with each angler having three warm-up casts and three qualification casts. An 11 ft. Fenwick graphite rod with a Pflueger spinning reel with 12 lb. test Stren fishing line will be the official tackle. Thirty pound test shock leader will be used with a four ounce sinker. The tests will be conducted on a measured field.

Lauer invited surf fishing clubs who want him to conduct qualifying tests in their area to write him at: Ken Lauer, P.O. Box 151, Buxton, NC 27920.

HEMPSTEAD TOWN SEAFOOD FESTIVAL IN SEPTEMBER

The Town of Hempstead Department of Industry and Commerce will be conducting a Hempstead Town Seafood Festival on Saturday, September 19 and Sunday September 20 under the "mushrooms" at Lido Beach Town Park. Booths will offer a wide range of seafood specialties and there will be many contests associated with the festival. Among these will be a surf casting contest for both amateurs and pros, plus largest fish awards for fluke and striped bass. A Seafood Festival Queen and King Neptune will be chosen; there will be recipe contests; sea-related art project awards for various age categories; and a fish-filleting contest for professionals. Anyone interested in setting up a booth or getting involved in this festival in any way can contact Dorothy Tripp at the Town of Hempstead Department of Industry and Commerce, 350 Front St., Hempstead, New York 11550; (516) 489-5000.





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Bait, Salmon Eggs, Spawn Sacs: #9263A **Beak**—Hollow pt., tapered up-eye, gold-pltd., forged, reversed, 1 slice in shank. #92168, nickel-pltd., 3X strong, 1 slice in X short shank.

Salmon & Steelhead Bait, Trolling Flies: #92553 **Beak**—X long hollow point, tapered up-eye, nickel-pltd., forged, reversed, X strong. #92553S, stainless steel.

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NATIONAL SCENE

Funds for Observer Coverage

by Al Ristori

About one year after a "compromise" plan to deal with the Japanese longliners was worked out by then House Merchant Marine & Fisheries Committee Chairman John Murphy, 100% observer coverage has finally been approved. In order to stave off the efforts of sportsmen and East Coast commercial interests to get bluefin tuna included in the 200-Mile limit law, the Japanese agreed to voluntarily reduce their giant tuna catch of pre-spawning fish in the Gulf of Mexico from about 8,000 to 7,000. Furthermore, Murphy agreed to 100% observer coverage—but he was swept away in the ABSCAM scandal.

Another season has gone by without adequate coverage of the Japanese longliners and we have only their word as to whether they complied with the voluntary quota of giants they agreed to last year. The funds finally approved for this program are without additional personnel ceilings for NMFS, so it was necessary to let out a technical contract. On July 2, Raven Corporation was selected to handle the contract coverage from the NMFS Mississippi Laboratories site at Pascagoula.

During June, eight Japanese longliners fished the Atlantic FCZ (fishery conservation zone), with most activity occurring 80 to 100 miles southeast of Nantucket Shoals. Preliminary reports indicate that fishing was fair, with tuna making up 54% of the total catch. Of these, albacore made up 54% and yellowfins 27%. Relatively few bluefins and swordfish were hooked during this period. Mortality rates were very high for billfish (over 85%) and "other species" (90%), but there was almost no mortality on released sharks. About 20 Japanese longliners were expected to maintain fishing operations in the Atlantic through mid-September.

Mexico Seizes Japanese Longliner

Foreign longliners working off our coasts are required to release billfish hooked in the course of tuna fishing. However, contrary to what you might hear, billfish are worth a great deal of money in Japan—and one vessel fishing off Mexico tried to get away with a catch of over 500 tons of striped marlin. According to the latest issue of "International Gamefisherman," the Mexican Navy apprehended the Japanese longliner about fifty miles from the popular fishing port of Cabo San Lucas—at the tip of Baja California. This ship was taking striped marlin despite an agreement between Mexico and Japan that this important sport species is considered "protected." Striped marlin fishing has been improving ever since the foreign longliners were shut out of that fishery—and the Mexican government means business about their restrictions. The ship will be held in LaPaz until fines are paid. Last year two Korean ships were apprehended with several hundred tons of marlin and were held in port for six months and heavily fined, before being released.

Fluke Plan Moving Ahead

At the June Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council meeting, New Jersey Fish & Game Director Russ Cookingham stated that the Atlantic States Fisheries Commission fluke report will be ready to be presented to the Council in September. One of the basic concepts of this joint plan (as has been agreed to by both the Scientific and Statistical Committee and the Citizens' Committee) is a fourteen inch minimum length for both recreational and commercial fishermen. That would bring the other Atlantic states into conformity with New York's 14" limit. However, there is also much support for enacting mesh size regulations for the fluke fishery in order to protect the small fluke. This may prove to be a snag due to the mixed catch nature of most trawl fisheries.

Hudson River PCB Reclamation Project Moves Forward

Public hearings on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) relating to the Hudson River PCB Reclamation Project were held in Hudson Falls, Poughkeepsie and New York City at the end of June. This project basically involves dredging of the PCB hotspots and encapsulation in a site 2½ miles south of the Village of Fort Edward. Virtually all groups are supporting the Environmental Protection Agency plan, though some residents of Washington County (near the encapsulation site) expressed concerns about the safety of the project. Among those endorsing the plan are the Hudson River Fisherman's Association, Scenic Hudson, Inc., National Audubon Society, Sierra Club and Clearwater. The final Environmental Impact Statement should now be ready and a decision by EPA is expected in mid-August. If favorable, the project site construction could begin in the fall.

Evinrude 1909 Outboard Designated National Landmark

One summer Sunday in the early 1900s, Ole Evinrude of Milwaukee tried to fulfill his girl friend's desire for ice cream by rowing two miles from a picnic on the banks of Okauchee Lake into town. By the time he rowed back the ice cream was melted and Ole figured that there must be a better way to get around on the water. That incident inspired him to build the first Evinrude outboard in 1909. The 62 lb. unit developed 1½ h.p. at 1,000 rpm and used a design that is the standard today: horizontal cylinder with a vertical crankshaft and driveshaft. His girl friend (by then Mrs. Evinrude—and office manager of the new Evinrude Motor Company) called it a "Coffee Grinder," but also wrote the first ad: "DON'T ROW! THROW THE OARS AWAY! USE AN EVINRUDE MOTOR."

On July 31, at the Okauchee Lake Restaurant, Evinrude's 1909 outboard was designated a "National Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark"—the first consumer product to be so designated by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. The Evinrude outboard joins more than 60 other National Mechanical Landmarks, including the Saturn V rocket, the New York City subway system, and the Pike's Peak cog railway. Capping the presentation was a demonstration of a running model of the 72-year-old landmark outboard installed on an antique boat—plus the service of ice cream on the banks of Okauchee Lake. It's interesting to consider where the outboard boating world would be now if Mrs. Evinrude's tastes had run to non-perishable candy rather than ice cream!

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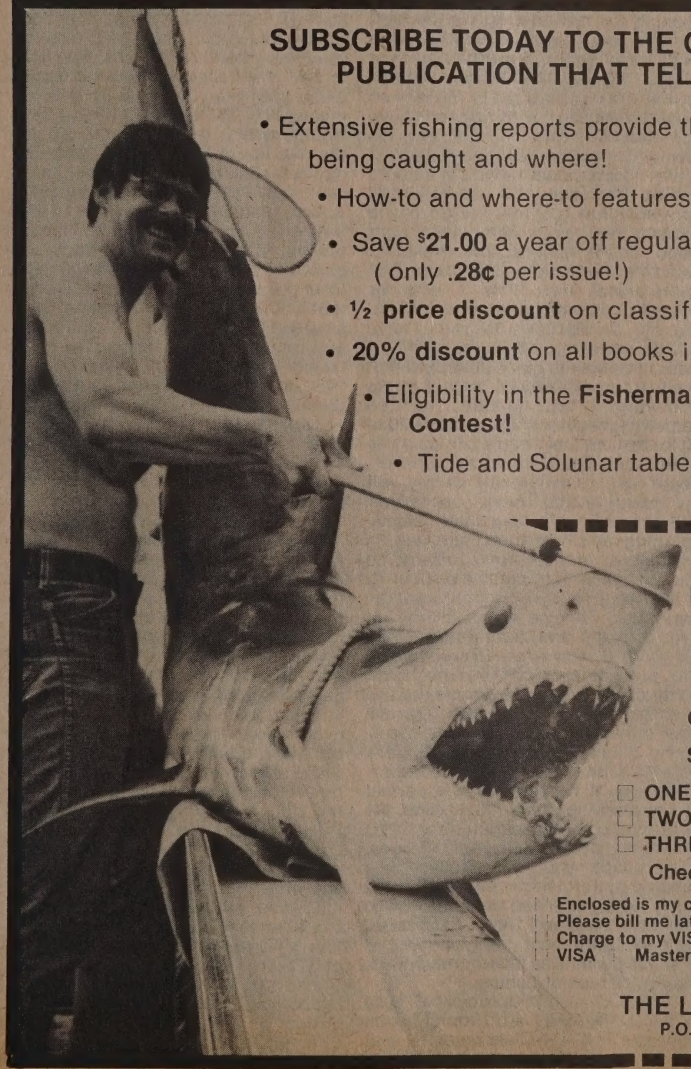

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FISH TALK

AUGUST WINNER

by William A. Muller

OFTEN A SIMPLE QUESTION LEADS TO A COMPLEX ANSWER. Russell Redman of Hicksville, you are the August winner of a Shakespeare Sigma Reel. Russell's question appears on the surface to be a very simple question and yet upon close examination it takes fishermen into a most intriguing problem. "In one of last year's issues of the magazine, I read an article about blackfishing. It said that spinning tackle was only good for blackfishing in shallow water. Also, it said that spinning tackle wasn't really strong enough to hook a good-sized blackfish. I believe that a good spinning reel should be able to handle a good blackfish. Thus, the article confused me and I'll bet it threw a kink or two into several other fishermen's plan."

PERHAPS MISREAD! I doubt that any of our writers would say that spinning tackle isn't strong enough to handle big blackfish. What they might have said is that light tackle spinning wasn't too suitable for blackfishing in deep water or when the fish are large. There is, however, nothing absolute about such statements. Our writers make suggestions on how to-and when-to and why-to, but they are only suggestions that come from years of experience which have led to personal preferences. You can use light spinning tackle on large blackfish, and nobody will arrest you—believe me! However, you will probably lose a lot of rigs in the rocks and you'll probably lose a lot of blackfish. If you have the money to burn on rigs and are content to maybe take home one good blackfish, then by all means use the light tackle spinning. However, fishing this way can be frustrating if all the elements of Murphy's Law come together. You might well spend the better part of the day putting on new rigs and other technical non-fishing activities. If the others in your party are catching fish, this can drive you mad! However, let's move onto the more fundamental question; that is, the use of conventional and spinning tackle in various types of situations. It isn't a question of the strength of the rod and the reel, but rather the characteristics of the tackle and strength gets into the act because of the pound test of the line that one may be compelled to use.

MY OWN PREFERENCE. The advice and explanation that I'm about to give is naturally based upon my own preferences. Thus, it is important to state that there are plenty of other ways to fish, but this is merely the way I see it. Many people like to use spinning tackle when bottom fishing for flounder, porgy, blackfish, etc. I do not agree with this practice because I believe that spinning is best when one is in a constant process of casting and retrieving lures. When bottom fishing there is too much opening the bail and closing the bail; let the line down without getting loops, take the line up without getting loops. Once off the bottom the big spinning rod guides get in the way on a boat. Most short spinning rods have tips which, in my opinion, are too flexible for bottom fishing. In short, I prefer conventional tackle for bottom fishing. Very often, I'll use very light conventional tackle—the Shimano Bantam reel on a homemade light wand, or the Shakespeare President baitcaster on a rather light Ugly Stik conventional rod. This I use for flounder, porgies, summer weakfishing, etc. On blackfish, I'd rather have a little more muscle in the tackle. I want to be able to bully a big blackfish away from its favorite pile of rocks and debris and I want to use somewhat heavier line—perhaps 20 to 30 lb. test, so that I don't use up three dozen rigs. The Bantam and Shakespeare light conventionals simply will not hold line that heavy and neither will the light spinning reels. Heavy spinning reels belong on the beach, in my opinion and are too cumbersome for convenient fishing in a boat.

IN THE END! In the final analysis the tackle you use is up to you. If you're happy and comfortable, then fish with it. However, the writers of the publication and the staff will continue to make recommendations that the "BOOK" says will improve your fishing success and enjoyment. Very often in fishing, you are balancing one factor against another. Thus, you'll never have the perfect rod and reel, but you may eventually get to the point where you have a rod and reel that you believe is the best compromise you can reach. This discussion perhaps explains why many an experienced fisherman owns dozens of rods and reels. Each outfit represents the best compromise that that fisherman was able to reach for a particular type of fishing.

ROBERT LUTHMANN FROM STATEN ISLAND asks about moon phases. "I have noticed recently, that the moon phases published in LIF and the moon phases published by the Hayden Planetarium are out of phases with each other. I wonder what the explanation is?"

REALLY THERE ISN'T ANY DIFFERENCE. Bob, you were kind enough to send along a copy of the Planetarium list of moon phases for 1981. These tables are prepared with great accuracy by the Planetarium staff. Thus, the sheet not only tells the day of a moon phase, but also the exact hour that it will occur. Needless to say the fisherman cannot distinguish the exact minute of the full moon, for example. Gee, I have trouble telling the exact day. To me the day before and the day after the day of the full moon are so close that I can't tell unless I take more than a casual glance. However, the exact timing may be important for astronomers; albeit most of them are amateurs. The need for the angler is a little different. Let's take the phases that you underlined. The sheet lists May 3, 1981 at 11:19 p.m. as the day and time of the new moon. The Long Island Fisherman lists it as May 4, 1981. Now much the same happens on the full moon. The Planetarium lists it as May 18, 1981 at 7:04 p.m. and The Long Island Fisherman lists it as May 19, 1981. The dates for the first quarter and the last quarter are the same: May 10, 1981 and May 26, 1981, respectively. Why the slight difference? Well, just as the exact time of a moon phase may be important to an astronomer, so, too, the fisherman has a special need. If the new moon occurs at 11:19 p.m. on May 3, 1981, then whatever special effects on tide and feeding behavior that fisherman may be relying on, can be subtlely more pronounced on May 4th than on May 3rd. For the more experienced angler fishing at night, the night tide in this case will likely occur after midnight and, therefore, he or she will actually be fishing on the 4th.

PUZZLING QUESTION! Herb Upsall of Stamford, Connecticut writes: "Doc, I have a question for you which has been puzzling me for a long time. What am I buying when I buy fillet of sole. I was in an excellent fish shop in Greenwich, Ct., and I asked the owner what was the difference between grey sole and lemon sole? He replied that the only difference was about a buck and a quarter a pound! Ha, ha, ha.

(Continued on page 50.)

FISHERMAN TIPS

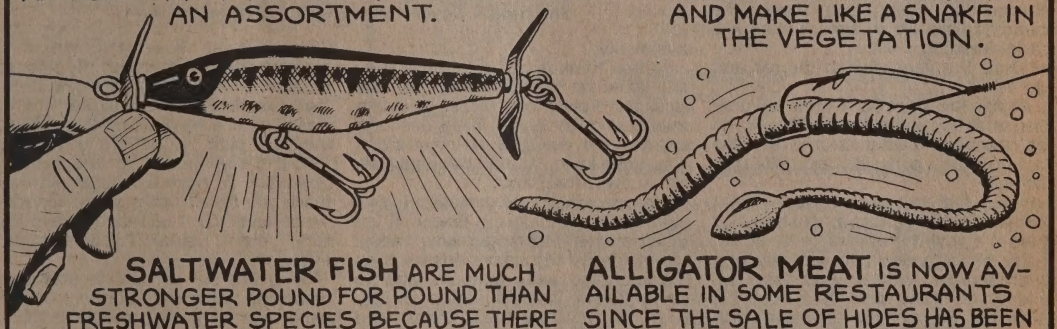
BY FRED GUARDINEER

BLUEGILLS ARE A LOT OF FUN AND GOOD EATING. FLY FISHING WITH LIGHT TACKLE IS BEST AROUND WEEDY BEDS. IN CALM WATER, THEY'LL COME TO SMALL BUGS AND BUSHY DRY FLIES.

SINKERS SHOULD BE JUST HEAVY ENOUGH TO HOLD LIVE BAIT AT THE PROPER LEVEL SO THE BAIT BEHAVES NATURALLY. WHENEVER PRACTICAL, TRY NOT TO USE A SINKER AT ALL.

SURFACE LURES: WHEN BUYING SURFACE LURES, REMEMBER THE FISH SEES ONLY THE BELLY FROM BELOW. SO SELECT BELLY COLORS RATHER THAN TOP COLORS WHEN CHOOSING AN ASSORTMENT.

FLOATING WORMS CATCH BASS IN WEEDY AREAS AS IT'S THE ONLY LURE THAT CAN GET INTO THE MOSS AND WEEDS WHERE THE FISH HIDE. HOOK FLOATING WORMS IN THE MIDDLE WITH WEEDLESS HOOK AND MAKE LIKE A SNAKE IN THE VEGETATION.



SALTWATER FISH ARE MUCH STRONGER POUND FOR POUND THAN FRESHWATER SPECIES BECAUSE THERE ARE LESS PLACES FOR THEM TO HIDE AND THEY MUST MOVE CONSTANTLY TO KEEP FROM BEING EATEN BY LARGER OR MORE FEROCIOUS PREDATORS.

ALLIGATOR MEAT IS NOW AVAILABLE IN SOME RESTAURANTS SINCE THE SALE OF HIDES HAS BEEN LEGALIZED BECAUSE OF AN OVERABUNDANCE OF THE BIG REPTILES. *THE TAIL* IS THE CHOICEST PART AND TASTES MUCH LIKE FROG LEGS, A DELICACY.

IT WAS ONLY A FISH!

by Matt Ahern

Shinnecock Canal. Early morning in mid-May—3AM to be exact. The night air is chill. Moisture beads and clings. My clothing is sodden with an accumulation of two hours' condensation. For the amount of casting energy I am expending, I should be warm as toast. But I'm not. Worse yet, I don't have a weakfish. Nor have I had a hit. I am certainly working harder for nothing than any shore fisherman I know. I now understand why I am the only fisherman on the Canal. There are no fish. Period.

My fears are justified: time to pack it in. I've given it my best shot. But maybe one more cast near that far bulkhead. If that doesn't do it, then I'll really give up. Cast. Nothing. Well...maybe one more; to the right this time. Still nothing. That small voice: now, you're gonna quit, aren't you? Yeah. Yeah. Just once more, then I'll go. Promise. A beautiful cast. Bump that Salty Dog along the bottom, slow, oh so slow, twitch it a little. Nothing.

Drat! Put your stuff in the car and go home.

I raise the trunk lid to stow my gear and attention is diverted by the slowly approaching headlights of a car. The driver pulls up beside me. "What's doing?"

I tell him my tale of woe. "That bad, eh? Well, as long as I'm here, I'll give it a shot anyway."

He hangs a weakfish with the first cast. Murder! It is a good fish, too. Plenty of speed and heft. But the stranger is doomed to disappointment. With one powerful surge, the fish parts the line.

He has my sympathy and I tell him so. "Forget it," the stranger says. "For heaven's sake, it's only a fish!"

Only a fish!

I can take no more and I leave.

Perhaps to that stranger, it was only a fish, but to me the loss of a good-sized fish, any good-sized fish—is a heart-wrenching calamity. Along with the rest of us, I've lost my share of big fish. And I've grieved over every one. Fleet-footed time has erased many of these disasters, but those I recall still give me a twinge when I think of them. Those big cod and big fluke, those lost tide-running weaks, that enormous Montauk pollack, which I'm convinced would have broken all existing records, all these at one time or another have brought bitter tears of frustration.

I don't know if it is good to be like this or not.

Shinnecock Canal—where good fishermen meet.

I often think it would be jim-dandy if I could be as nonchalant as that stranger. Fewer heartaches and less mental anguish would have been my lot over the years. But I'm afraid it was never to be. And all because I got off on the wrong foot.

Not my fault, of course. I had nothing to do with it. Blame it on those master fishermen who raised me in the fishing game. Blame it on them, if you will, those fellows to whom fishing was truly a way of life. Blame it on their kindness and willingness to teach a knee-pants kid the ropes, to instill in him a love for fishing that "passeth all understanding." Yes—if you must, blame it on them.

And in particular you can blame Matt Smith, one of the kindest and most gentle fishermen I've ever known. Thirty years my senior when I first met him, Matt Smith was like a second father to me. I know there were many fishing trips he passed up with men his own age, fishing trips which practically guaranteed fish, only because he had already promised he'd take a certain knee-pants kid to a nearby beach and teach him how to cast; or how to ferret out bait in the most unlikely places; or how to wrap/snell hooks. He never once broke his promises to me—no matter what it cost him fish-wise.

And then you can lay some of the blame on Captain Dick Persson of Canarsie's old Rose R II. He must take full responsibility for my intense passion for party boat fishing lo these many years. Can you imagine what it was like for a 14-year-old to be asked into the pilot house? To eventually "steer" the vessel to the fishing grounds? To have a master mariner teach you how to take shore ranges? To be told that if you didn't have the fare, it didn't matter. To come aboard anyway.

They are but two of the scores of dedicated fishermen who took me in hand, some of whom I've already written about in previous articles, and some whose turn is yet to come.

Is it any wonder with such a background that I am so serious about fishing? Why those who barely know me insist that I am a "nut?" I couldn't be any other way. I know had I told any of my tutors the instant I lost my first fish that "it was only a fish," I'd have been dropped like a hot potato. And deservedly so. I'd have been lucky if they'd brought me home again. No, indeed. To them, as to all who wish to excel at the game, fishing is, was, and should be regarded as a serious sport.

Now I don't mean in order to become a good fisherman, one must give up hearth and home. After all, fishing is a sport; but isn't it peculiar how those who excel at any sport are those who devote all their time and energy to it? You might apply this to the business and entertainment

world, too. Those who have become household names did not become so by half-hearted attempts to prevail. They gave it their all. And they continue to do so, never letting up for one minute.

If we as fishermen have no respect for the sport, if we do not continuously endeavor to improve, if we treat the game as something to pass the time when the mood urges, then we as fishermen must be content to flit around the edges. We may catch an outsized fish now and then, but when push comes to shove, we will surely be relegated to the little boys' class. Never will we produce when the chips are down.

I suppose by now some are saying: "This guy's right—he really is a nut!"

Well...allow this "nut" to tell you a little story.

Several years ago, I visited Shinnecock Canal with the sole purpose of taking some photos for future articles. It was June and as usual the Canal was wall-to-wall with fishermen trying their best to catch fluke. But except for a throwback here and there, there was no action. One old-timer told me it had been like that for several days.

The old-timer and I were in the midst of a general discussion on fishing, when he suddenly broke off the conversation. "Here comes Henry the Plumber," he remarked, pointing out a new arrival. "Watch this. Dollars to doughnuts he'll shake these guys up. You never saw a fisherman like this one."

Henry the Plumber found himself a spot fairly close to where we were standing. I became aware that he wasn't overly-anxious to begin fishing. I think he spent five minutes just watching what the other fellows were doing. He glanced at their bait as it was reeled in, and appeared to make mental judgment on fishing methods and assorted skills; nor did the length of the various leaders go unnoticed.

He was doing exactly what I'd been taught to do in the long-ago: when the chips are down, watch and observe. It is only foolish fishermen who imitate what others are doing when to do so will only bring failure.

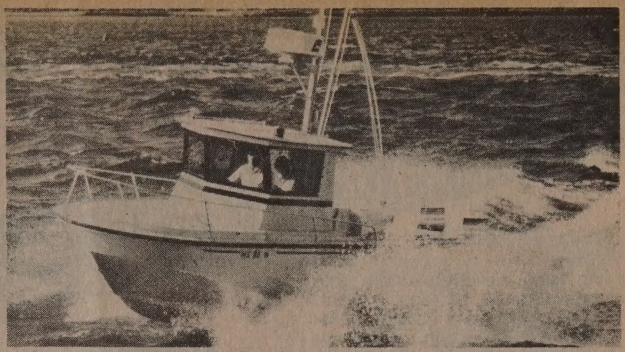
Henry the Plumber opened his tackle bag and pawed through it. I moved closer. He brought forth what appeared to be a quarter ounce Bill Upperman white bucktail. He tipped this with a three inch slice of squid and made his cast.

The old-timer nudged me. "Watch this. This is gonna be good."

He was right. That bucktail hadn't covered five feet of bottom when it was seized by a two pound fluke. Another cast and up came a sea robin. One more cast and a mate to the first fluke went into the bucket. An hour later, Henry the Plumber had seven fluke—the largest around three pounds. There probably hadn't been seven keeper fluke caught in the whole Canal during the previous several days. But this meant nothing to this excellent fisherman. As he told me later, he knew from experience that those fish were there—they just wanted something different.

Now Henry the Plumber wasn't an old-timer, although he'd been fishing for awhile. But he admitted to studying and experimenting with the best way to get around the times when fish put on their finicky act. He worked at it. His words, not mine.

And I know something else about Henry the Plumber. I'll bet when he does lose a big fish, he doesn't say: "Forget it. It was only a fish." He grieves along with the rest of us "nuts." Of that you can be sure.



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DOG DAY WEAKS

by Fred Golofaro

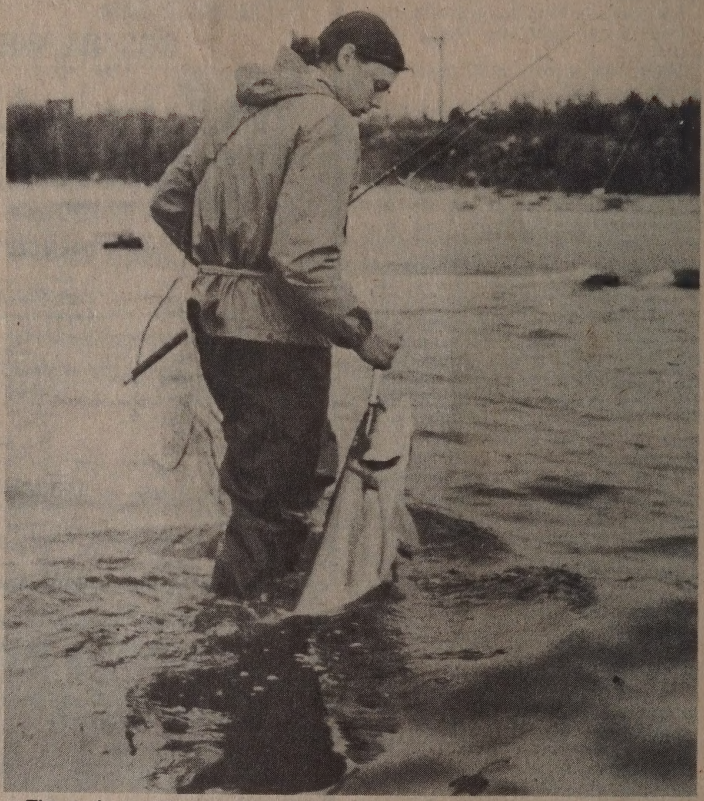
As Long Island swelters under the usual late summer barrage of heat and humidity, surfmen become hard put to find enough action to warrant repeated visits to their favorite stretch of beach. Those who do, generally resort to soaking sandworms along the open beaches of the South Shore for weakfish or an occasional striper.

Extremely high water temperature is frequently the villain during the dog days of August. Despite this obstacle, a small group of anglers manage to continue to enjoy some pretty fine weakfish action throughout a good part of the summer doldrum period. The key to their success lies in fishing the perimeters of the inlets where the close proximity of deep channels and cooler ocean water gives them an opportunity to tangle with hungry game fish. At times, the best fishing is concentrated around inlet mouths but a good portion of the time, better fishing can be had by working the adjacent "backsides."

In addition to the high water temperature of late summer, heavy boat traffic becomes a factor in some areas. By fishing nights, both of these problems can be effectively dealt with although fishing after dark during the summer months presents some other hurdles that must be dealt with.

Mosquitoes rate as public enemy number one to the after dark angler who wanders the "back" or bay side of inlets. Some of us suffer more than others at the hands of these little devils. Unfortunately, I count myself among the ranks who cringe at the telltale buzzing of a mosquito zeroing in on my flesh.

So great is my fear and hatred for these tiny tormentors, that one night, after inadvertently leaving a window screen open, I awoke to the buzzing and biting of what seemed like an entire squadron of the pests. Armed with a tightly rolled copy of **The Fisherman** in each hand, I spent from 2AM to 4AM on a seek and destroy mission that I'm sure left neighbors wondering what kind of weirdos had just moved next door. By the time the dust and cobwebs had settled, the remains of no less than fifteen of the beasts (yes, I counted them) remained splattered on our freshly-painted bedroom walls. Worse than the blood stains (my blood) were the black smudge marks that belied the accuracy of my magazine barrage and assured me of another three-hour stint with a paintbrush. As vulnerable as I am to mosquitoes, I have found a solution to my problem in the form of a repellant known as **Cutters**. While costly, it is the only formula with which I have had good results.



The early morning and evening hours can productive during August, especially on overcast days. Photo by Dick Mermon.

"Fire," or bio-luminescence, can be a real bane to nighttime casters during periods of little or no moonlight. Taking fish on artificials when these conditions prevail can be a very tough task. While dropping down to the smallest of lures and slowing your retrieve to a crawl will sometimes pay dividends, it is far wiser to concentrate your efforts around dawn and dusk during such times.

Tackle for this kind of fishing can be kept on the light side with 7½' sticks best suited to the task. Besides being ideal for presenting artificials in the one-half to one ounce size range, the small sticks are a refreshing change from the cumbersome eleven-and-a-half footers which are the preferred tool of most South Shore surfmen.

Spinning reels comparable in size to the Penn 710Z are ideal mates for the 7½ footers. When loaded with a quality grade mono of 10 lb. test, this outfit will handle any weakfish that comes along and is up to the task should a teen or twenty pound class striper butt in on the action. Needless to say, if any real cow (over 30 lbs.) is hooked, you'll more than have your

hands full. Due to the swift currents which characterize the inlets, I'd venture to say that the odds of landing such a fish on this light tackle are slim.

If there are concentrations of large baitfish such as bunker around and there is evidence of big stripers or blues in the area you are working, then it might be a wise choice to go to the heavy artillery and never mind the weaks. If you still want a shot at the yellowfins, a feather chopper or small Red Gill fished two feet ahead of your lure will take them as readily as any artificial under most circumstances.

Getting back to light tackle, bait-casting gear can be substituted for spinning if you prefer. It provides the advantage of having better control should you hook a large striper and allows you to move up to twelve or fifteen pound test in the line department. The only drawback I have found with this equipment is when casting light, wind-resistant plugs such as floating RedFins and Rebels into even a moderate breeze. Using the WindCheater Rebel is one solution but there will be times when the fish get picky and want nothing to do with this wide-bodied model.

The ideal outfit if you decide to go the revolving spool route, consists of a seven to seven-and-a-half foot light to medium action rod paired with a reel similar in size to the Ambassadeur 6000. Shakespeare offers a couple of Ugly Stik rods in their 1100 Series which are perfect for this work.

Your lure selection should include some of Mickey Chiarenza's well designed Tri-Fin lures. A couple of 3/4 oz. Whiptails in white and an equal number of 3/4 oz. Eelworms in red and black should be toted along. A few 1/ to 1 oz. bucktails will add to your sub-surface coverage.

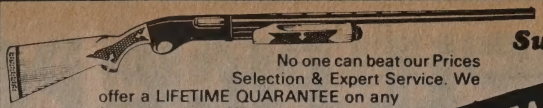
In the plug department, some 5½" RedFins and Rebels in silver/black-back, silver/yellowback and mackerel are absolute musts. When weed conditions permit, the deep running Nils Master, retrieved to kick up puffs of sand can be deadly.

Should you be spending any time in the water around dusk or dawn, be sure to carry a small popping plug or two as well as a couple of Tri-Fin Spoon Jigs in the one ounce size. These are added ammo should any school bass or blues show up.

Droppers can be fished effectively ahead of any of the lures we have mentioned here.

The most productive tides vary from area to area but I have found that as a rule, the better fishing towards the mouth of an inlet occurs from the middle to the end of the ebb. Moving down the backsides into the bay, action is generally better during the last part of incoming water and the first half of the ebb.

If the summer doldrums have you down, a night of stalking the inlets is as good a way as any to pass the time until northwest winds signal the start of the fall fishing.



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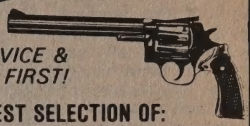

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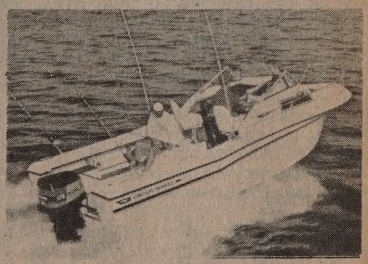

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WE'LL PICK PORGIES

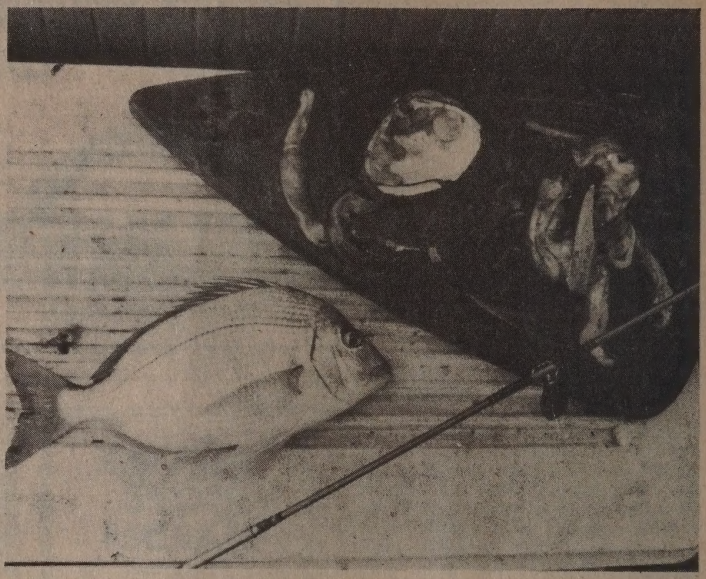
by Martin & Janet Garrell

One of the toughest problems for angling writers is describing a subject which is virtually non-existent at the moment when he or she puts pen to paper. Try fantasizing about weakfish in March or about fluke in April, for example. Fortunately, there are a couple of species native to Long Island waters which have such a long period of residence that it's easy to catch the fever almost any time during the spring, summer, or fall. Writing about porgies is like that: just like catching them, it's enjoyable almost any time.

On the East End where we live, porgy fever starts early, around the third week of May, when the South Race off Robin's Island get a run of "sea porgies" for a couple of weeks. The disease can last a long time, through early November, when autumnal gales finally chase the last of the silver schools out of the Sound and off the South Shore wrecks and send them offshore for the winter. But the height of the season, the time when scup really reign over the East End, occurs during the July to September period, when Gardiner's Island comes alive with the summer run.

Down Gardiner's way, just like off Montauk, fish sizes vary from day to day, depending on which schools are passing through at that time. If you've really got your sights set on a "jumbo" scup, an honest three pounds or better, weighed on an honest scale and not guesstimated as it flops into the fish box, you'd probably be better off searching other places at other times, like the Middle Grounds of Little Peconic Bay in mid-May, the Eastern Sound in June, or the wrecks south of the Hamptons in October. Most of the Gardiner's fish will be "mixed sizes," anywhere from 3/4 lb. up to 2 lbs. In porgy lingo, they'll run anywhere from "sands" up to "sea." The average fish on most days will still be a meaty "medium" one pound specimen, and there are usually a few fish in the 1½ to 2 lb. class in every catch of 30 or more.

Pound for pound, though, or maybe we should say ounce for ounce, there is probably no stronger fish in our waters. (Okay, perhaps the snappers are in the same league, but that's about all.) Fishing for the scrappy porgy is similar in many respects to panfishing in freshwater. It's an ideal way to start a youngster off and to show him or her a lot of action with feisty fish, provided the tackle is right and provided the conditions are right.



Skimmer clams and porgies usually go together, though worms and squid are sometimes better "turn-ons."

It's also an ideal way to bail out on a day in which larger target species, fluke or blues, for example, fail to cooperate—like the time late last August when our friend, Frank Manarel, wanted to do some fluking off the Ruins.

The tide was right, the traffic was heavy (alas, it was, after all, a summer Sunday morning), and the flatfish were their usual ornery selves. The three of us managed to take four keeper fluke plus assorted shorts, windowpane flounder, and sea robins in two hours of nerve-wracking, white knuckle fishing. "Will he or won't he pick it up? How long should I let him munch? Dammit, missed again!" The usual productive fluke trip! Clearly we needed a break once the "torrid" action on fluke had ceased.

When we hauled out a chum pot and packed it with bunker, skipper Manarel had a look on his face like that of a Hamptons' socialite at a Long Island Cauliflower Association auction. The look was deceiving though. Once we'd anchored off the Whaling Tower and sent the weighted pot to the bottom and once the porgies began to fly over the rails, Manarel looked like he'd been born for the game. The grin on his face widened as he flipped 2½ lbs. of fish in the form of a doubleheader onto the deck. Secretly, we guessed, Frank Manarel, like many fishermen may well be a porgy addict. But when all your friends talk about jigging for blues or drifting live eels for bass or offshore trolling for more exotic stuff, it's a natural to keep your identity as a scup fisherman in the closet.

Explosive debates rage throughout publications like The Fisherman about the art of fishing for porgies. Is it tough to hook porgies or not? Do you strike on the first tug, the second, or even before the fish bites (whatever that means)? Sometimes we wonder if any of those distinguished angling writers ever tried porgy fishing with hooks smaller than size #2 or with tackle lighter than 10-12 lb. gear. Borrowing a page or two from the books of freshwater panfishermen, we try to match hook sizes to sizes of fishes' mouths. Even when the porgies are jumbos, a #4 hook is on the large side! Generally we go from #6 on down; that way, it becomes rather difficult for medium-sized porgies of a pound or more to peck a hook clean without impaling themselves on the barb. You feel the first peck, hesitate a couple of seconds, and then lift the rod! We

also like to maximize the sensitivity of our tackle so that the bites of a porgy feel like hard raps, not soft tugs. Down at Gardiner's, we're usually fishing with sinkers of two ounces or less in water less than 40' deep, so light spinning tackle or very light conventional with lines in the 4-6 lb. test range is perfectly suited for the job.

To be sure, if we were aboard one of the Montauk porgy boats, say one of the **Marlin** or **Viking** boats, or if we were riding out with the Greenport Fleet that includes the **Brand X** and the **Peconic Star** on a crowded day, and if we had to fish deep water through strong tides, we'd beef up our tackle accordingly. But, because our angling is done from private craft, away from strong rips, and usually around the turn of the tides, we shade to light tackle without problems.

Hooks are tandem-tied on 15-20 lb. leader material stiff enough to keep them separated, and the rigs are best kept short enough so that the hooks themselves lie within 18" of the sinker, which is attached via a dropper loop. Ironically, even though a single porgy by itself is plenty of fun on 4 lb. gear, and even though it seems crazy to look deliberately for multiple hook-ups on ultra-light, they result rather frequently. The first fish hooked may spend a few seconds swimming among its contemporaries while the angler puts a few turns of line on his or her reel, and, bingo! Number two porgy latches on. No, we've yet to hook a brace of two pounders, but that should be "interesting" to say the least.

Should you bring a chum pot? By all means! Occasionally a rich chum mixture of skimmers and bunker will prove a curse by attracting a collection of sea robins, skates and other non-target critters, and you may want to pick up and move into deeper or shallower water to get up shop again.

We were surprised a couple of times down at Gardiner's to find that the larger porgies aren't always in the deeper waters; nor are they always clam-lovers. Off the Ruins last September, we'd drifted away from the fluke fleet and were flapping our squid-and-sandeel combinations through 6-8' of water when several baits were nailed by "rap-rap" strikes most uncharacteristic of flatties. After feeding a couple of baits to the unknown hungries, we eventually hooked a fish, a hefty 1¾ lb. porgy. Quickly, we set up the light gear and caught 1½-2 lb. porgies until our wrists ached. These fish preferred small pennants of squid, fished in fluke-like fashion from a drifting boat!

Yes, there are folks who would rather fish for bass in the light of a full moon off Montauk or Orient, or work over wily doormats in East End rips, or even chase evening choppers with poppers off the beaches. But, for us, in the lazy summer sunshine, we'll pick porgies off Gardiner's!

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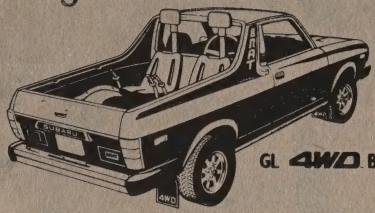

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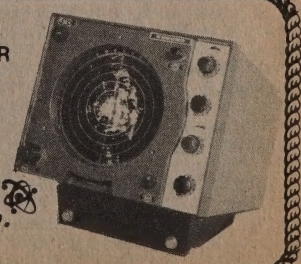

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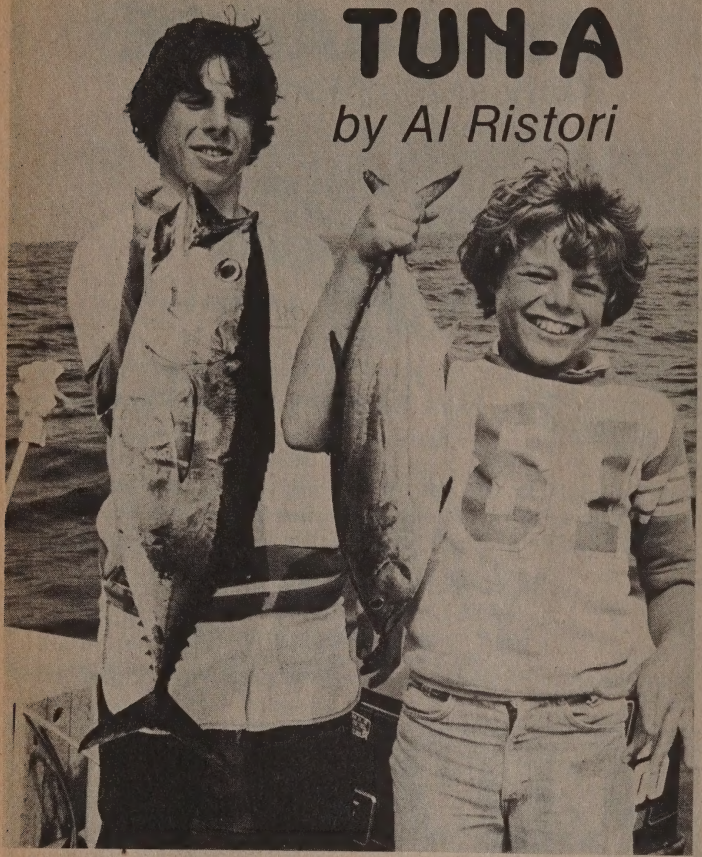
NAME THAT TUN-A

by Al Ristori



Bobby Correll (l) with a school bluefin tuna and Todd Correll (r) with a skipjack tuna, trolled S-SW of Montauk Point. Both anglers are from Belle Terre, L.I.

Species identification is often difficult due to the proliferation of local names used for the same fish in various parts of the world. Thus it took me awhile to figure out that a fish called "cod" in Trinidad was actually a cobia and that the "snapper" which is the most popular eating fish in New Zealand is really a member of the porgy family. Fortunately, the expansion of record keeping by the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) is likely to lead to greater uniformity throughout the world in the naming of various species.

The identification problem extends to almost all species, and has been particularly vexing with some members of the tuna family. Common names have been misused to such an extent that even scientists joined in the confusion. For many years, the IGFA kept records for the "oceanic bonito," which isn't a bonito at all—but, rather, the skipjack tuna.

Fortunately, the IGFA has cleared up the identification of tuna family members—most of which now fit into the expanded record keeping system. The family Scombridae includes the 13 true tuna species, 8 species of bonitos, 20 species of Spanish mackerels (including the king mackerel, cero, and wahoo), and 6 species of mackerels—all of which belong to the subfamily Scombrinae. The only other subfamily, Gasterochismatinae, is represented by a single species: the butterfly kingfish.

The 13 tunas belong to the tribe Thunnini and break down into four groupings. The Genus Thunnus are easily identified as tunas and include the bluefin, yellowfin, big-eye, blackfin, and albacore among species found along the East Coast—as well as the southern bluefin (found south of the Equator) and the longtail of the Pacific. The Genus Katsuwonus is represented by a single species, the skipjack tuna—formerly known as oceanic bonito and Arctic bonito, but readily identified by the stripes along the lower side. The Genus Euthynnus includes three species, one of which is the most misidentified of all. Almost no one calls the little tunny by its correct name. In the northeast it's "false albacore" or, even worse, just plain "albacore." In the south and Gulf it's "bonito." The two other members of this genus are the black skipjack and kawakawa of the Pacific. Rounding out the tunas are the small and misnamed bullet and frigate mackerels of the genus Auxis. The IGFA does not maintain records for those species at the present time.

According to the IGFA, all true tunas share certain characteristics. Their bodies are nearly round in cross section, rather than compressed, and are elongate and fusiform in profile. The first dorsal fin is high in the front and tends to sweep down in a curve (concave) posteriorly, rather than just tapering off. The interspace between the dorsal fins is smaller than the diameter of the eye—except in the genus Auxis. The second dorsal fin and the anal fin are similar in size and shape, and each has a prominent lobe. In the case of the yellowfin tuna, these lobes may be unusually long. The second dorsal fin and the anal fin are followed by a number of small finlets along the caudal peduncle, on either side of which there is a strong lateral keel that is supported by a well-developed bony extension of the vertebrae. The lateral keel is followed by two smaller ridges somewhat further back on the tail, where the caudal peduncle ends. Some of the smaller tunas have distinct markings, while the larger species lack markings other than the whitish spots on the bellies of some species.

Among the East Coast tunas, the best known is the bluefin. This is truly the "giant tuna." The current all-tackle record is a fish of 1496 lbs. taken at Aulds Cove, Nova Scotia on October 26, 1979 by Ken Fraser. Though no one approached the 1000 lb. mark in the long history of giant tuna fishing until the last decade, a great many "granders" have been caught since then. All of these big rod and reel fish have been taken to the north, with my New Jersey record 1022 pounder the most southerly catch of a thousand pounder. However, Japanese longliners have caught fish of this size on the Gulf of Mexico winter spawning grounds—and the possibility exists that a sport fishery may be developed in that area. A few giants have been boated by sportsmen operating out of South Pass, Louisiana in the spring, but there may be even better prospects for Florida anglers.

In January domestic longliners captured well over 200 giants in the Gulf, many of which were brought into Key West. This bonanza ended when the National Marine Fisheries Service instituted a new regulation restricting swordfish longliners to a small by-catch of giant tuna. Though the domestic longliners were skirting

the law for awhile, they could hardly be blamed for taking advantage when Japanese longliners are taking 7,000 to 8,000 pre-spawning giants from the Gulf every winter. This is possible because tuna were left out of the 200-Mile limit when the law was passed (in order to allow West Coast tuna seiners to violate the 200 Mile limits of other countries) and the Japanese longliners are free to do whatever they wish in order to catch tuna within our waters. They have been forced to release all other species (though most billfish are dead), but the only way the overfished bluefin can be saved as a viable game fish is for Congress to include the tunas in the 200-Mile limit.

After spawning in the Gulf, giant bluefins move north along the east side of the Gulf Stream—providing a good fishery off Bimini and Cat Cay. However, the average size of these giants is much smaller than those found to the north since they don't seem to feed much after moving south in late fall. A Canadian study estimated that the average giant puts on about 150 lbs. during the summer and fall feeding season, and then loses much of that during the winter and spring.

Scientific studies have shown that this incredibly powerful fish is able to maintain a body temperature of as much as 18° F. above the temperature of the surrounding waters, a feature which enables the biggest giants to continue feeding on vast schools of squid and herring in the Canadian Maritime Provinces during November. Scientists Frank Cary and John Teal of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution have calculated that a 10° centigrade (18° F.) rise in body temperature effectively triples the power and response of a muscle mass. Bluefin tuna are fast as well as powerful, having been clocked at speeds up to 43.4 miles per hour in bursts of 10 to 20 seconds duration.

Though newly-spawned tuna are found in the Gulf stream off southern Florida, school tuna maintain an inshore/offshore migratory pattern in mid-Atlantic waters until they are mature and ready to join in the spawning run to the Gulf each winter. Though not usually confused with other tunas, the bluefin can be distinguished by its rather short pectoral fins, which measure less than 80% of the head length and extend as far back as the eleventh or twelfth spine in the first dorsal fin. Since American fishermen are regulated in the tuna fishery, it's necessary to have a free permit in order to fish for giants (over 315 lbs.). Anglers are also allowed only four school tuna per day. Applications for the free giant tuna permits (which stay with the boat and don't have to be renewed) and copies of the regulations may be obtained by writing to Mr. Bill Jerome, National Marine Fisheries Service, State Fish Pier, Gloucester, MA 01930.

The yellowfin tuna is very common

Al Bloom, of Bayonne, N.J., displays the true albacore with its distinguishing long pectoral fins.

in the Gulf, the Bahamas, off Hatteras, and near the offshore canyons north to Cape Cod. However, it's not commonly caught on the west side of the Gulf Stream off the Florida Coast. Also known as Allison tuna, it is characterized by over-extended second dorsal and anal fins that may reach more than halfway back to the tail base in some large specimens. Unfortunately, some specimens (particularly small ones) don't have such long, colorful fins and there can be an identification problem with the blackfin and bigeye. Yellowfins are caught in deep, warm waters around the world and grow to about 400 lbs.—though any over 100 lbs. are considered to be large.

The bigeye is another tuna that frequents deep waters around much of the world. It has a greater tendency to stay deep and therefore isn't taken as frequently as the yellowfin by sportsmen. The extra large eyes are the key to identification, though they otherwise look like a yellowfin with shorter second dorsal and anal fins. The sure identification between the two is provided by the liver, the bottom of which is striated in the bigeye. Bigeyes are rarely caught to the south along the Atlantic Coast, but have become a common catch by sportsmen in the canyons from Maryland to New York. They average much bigger than yellowfins, with specimens in the 200-259 lb. class being common. However, the Atlantic all-tackle record is actually a bit smaller at 375½ lbs.

The blackfin is the smallest of our Atlantic tunas and the most common of the Genus Thunnus off the Florida Coast. Identification of this colorful species usually isn't a problem as they school together and normally aren't found in the same areas as similar tunas. Like the yellowfin and bigeye, the blackfin has a moderately long pectoral fin (more than 80% of head length) which separates it from the bluefin. Both the yellowfin and bigeye have black margins on the finlets, while the blackfin sports white margins. This species also has a prominent gold lateral band which fades quickly after death. The all-tackle record for this fine light tackle game fish is 42 lbs.

The final member of the Genus Thunnus with which Atlantic anglers are concerned is the albacore. Though a very important sport fish off the California Coast, the albacore has only recently been caught in substantial numbers off the Atlantic Coast—with almost all coming from the canyon areas off New Jersey and Long Island. However, albacore do come within 20 or 30 miles of shore off Montauk Point in late summer. The Atlantic albacore are much bigger than the usual Pacific specimens, with average sizes running 30-50 lbs. There is no mistaking this species (except in the juvenile stages) because of the long pectoral fin which extends to a point beyond the anal and second dorsal fins. The all-tackle record for albacore is a fish of 88 lbs. 2 oz. taken off the Canary Islands, but contacts in Madeira have assured me that commercial fishermen there have caught them weighing over 100 lbs. This is the best eating of the tunas, and the only one that can be sold as "white meat tuna."

The most common tuna catch for inshore anglers is the little tunny, the Atlantic representative of the Genus Euthynnus. This fish is mistakingly called "bonito" throughout the South Atlantic and Gulf, and false albacore to the north. It's somewhat elongated body shape is similar to that of the albacore, but the short, broad pectoral fin has no resemblance to that of the albacore. This species can also be identified by coloration. The little tunny has several dark spots on the

(Continued on next page.)

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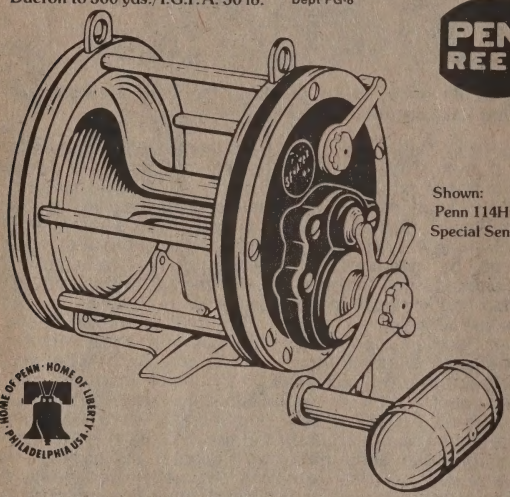

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belly between the pectoral and ventral fins which are a sure distinguishing feature. The little tunny is one of the greatest game fish of all, and the only tuna which even occasionally enters the surf (particularly at Hatteras). However, it is often looked down on by anglers because of its dark, bloody flesh. The current all-tackle record is a 27 lber. taken off Key Largo on April 20, 1976 by William E. Allison.

The final tuna of concern to us is the sole representative of the Genus Katsuwonus, the skipjack tuna. Formerly known as oceanic and Arctic bonito, it's found in most tropical and subtropical seas. Though basically a deep water fish, the skipjack does tend to move inshore somewhat and is often found mixed in with school bluefins in waters 10-20 miles offshore during the summer off the Mid-Atlantic Coast. It's impossible to mistake the skipjack for anything else. The dead giveaway is the 4-6 prominent, dark longitudinal stripes running along the belly. There are no markings above the lateral line. Anglers usually refer to the stripes as convict stripes or pajama pants. This species, often found in vast schools, is of great commercial importance. The all-tackle record is 40 lbs., and individuals over 20 lbs. are considered to be quite large. Due to their soft mouths, many are lost by trollers—and they've earned the nickname "mush mouth."

The one species of bonito which is of interest to Atlantic anglers is Sarda sarda, the Atlantic bonito. It is common in temperate and tropical waters on both sides of the Atlantic, but rather rare in the Caribbean and Gulf. Unlike the tunas, the bonito has an elongate shape, a large mouth with lots of prominent small teeth, and stripes on the back—not the belly. The "green" bonito has become increasingly important as an inshore game fish off the New Jersey and Long Island coasts in recent years. They are most abundant in late summer, but are sometimes caught into mid-November as far north as Montauk. The average size is usually about 5 lbs. and the all-tackle record is 13½ lbs. The flesh is light and quite tasty, though it gets soft rapidly.

The tuna family has been confusing anglers for a good many years, but there really isn't any reason for that to be the case any longer. These greatest of game fish each have their own peculiar distinguishing marks and can be readily identified by anglers who take the time to learn them. The best bet is to keep all this info at hand by spending $6.95 for the big IGFA World Record Game Fishes/1981 book. You can buy this 308-page "Bible" at selected marinas, tackle shops, and book stores—or order it postpaid from IGFA. Better yet, send $15 and get the book, plus a year's membership (including newsletter and many other benefits) by writing to International Game Fish Assocation, 3000 East Las Olas Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316.

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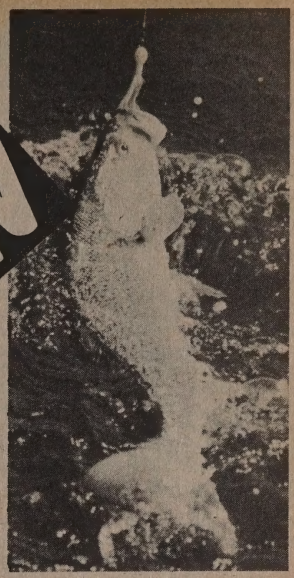

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Against All Odds

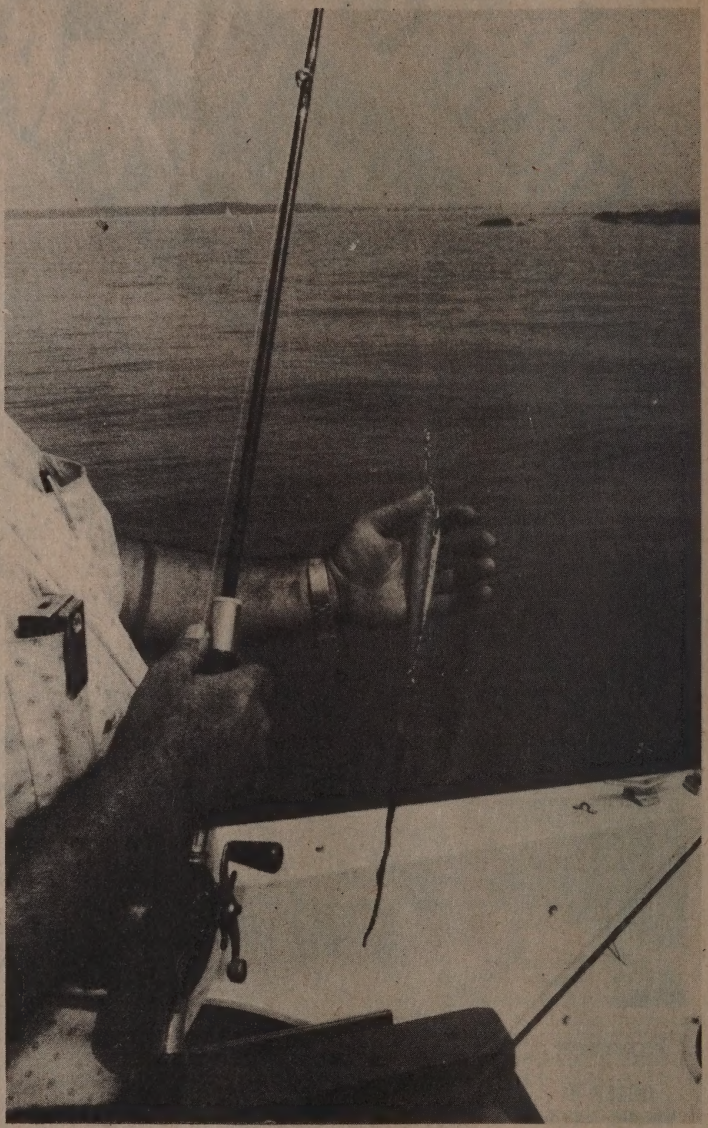
by Andy Regina

The timing was all wrong. First of all, the tide was fading rapidly towards low ebb, and I do mean low ebb 'cause we were on a moon tide that had the highest highs and lowest lows that I had seen in years. Secondly, it was a hurry-up, unplanned trip because my partner, Joe Batista, and I had not been able to get together in weeks, what with conflicting work schedules and all. When we finally got the chance to spend a couple of hours on the Sound in his "Georgia B II," we naturally took advantage of it. Finally, the striped bass just were not around, and had been scarce for weeks, so we had to scrap our main target for a secondary choice, but fishin' is fishin' and we were dying to get out.

Late summer striped bass fishing in the western end of Long Island Sound consists mainly of trolling with live sand worms up tight against rocky shore lines. Sure, there are lots of other ways to get your kicks, and lots of guys love to plug for them, especially in the early morning hours or in the evening, when there is not too much boat traffic around. Other guys troll deep with wire, probing mid-Sound depths with umbrella rigs or single tubes, hoping to score with some big fish. Other Roccus nuts rely on bait for their success, and lots of bass fall prey to properly presented live baits such as eels, bunker, or whatever, usually fished at night. The truly misguided insist on casting from deserted beaches or jetties, masochists that delight in multiplying the already astronomical odds stacked against them.

True, each angler derives great pleasure and extreme satisfaction from his particular preference, and each separate technique can and will outscore any other at some time or other, but for sheer consistency of success, you just can't beat worm trolling. Of course, like everything else, there are some drawbacks, and lots of do's and don't's, but the end result is most always more bass in the box than any other technique. There are several variations of worm trolling that are used, and here again, each variation has its own exponents. Being almost human, we have our own particular favorite worm trolling technique, but to do justice to this method as a whole, we will discuss each different technique and let you make your own decisions.

All worm trolling is done in relatively shallow inshore water, either alongside or over a reef out in the Sound or directly inshore, right on top of the boulders and rocks that make up the familiar landscape of our islands and shore line. Here a shallow draft boat is mandatory, 'cause if you do not bounce off a huge boulder once in awhile, you just ain't fishing in the right spot. By the same token, short-shafted, low horsepowered outboard motors are just as mandatory, to avoid those rocks as much as possible as you troll as close as possible to them as you can, as slowly as you possibly can. Slow is the key word here. Years ago it was no

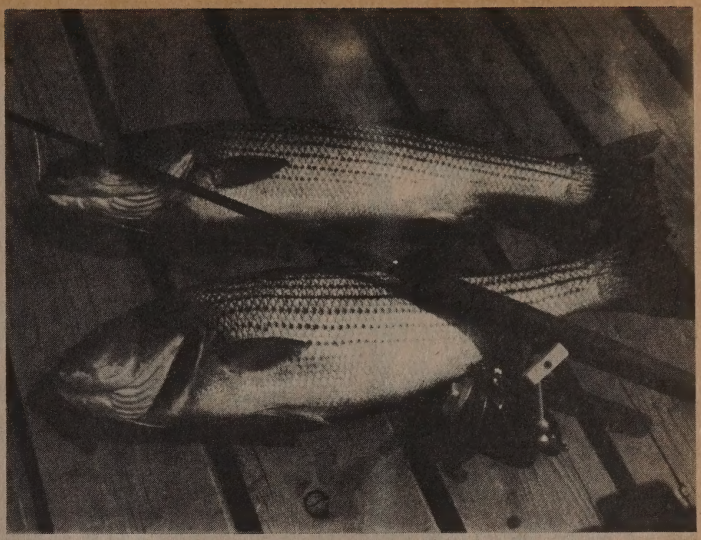


The worm rigged plug-rig, used with conventional light tackle and fifteen pound test line. Note boulders off northern point of Hart Island.

problem because wooden skiffs, rowed with oars, proved ideal for this medium, and that proverbial "ash breeze" provided the perfect crawling momentum as high-riding boats skimmed over rocks strewn right on the water's edge. Today you must throttle down to a pace that duplicates the cadence of a pedestrian out for a leisurely stroll, and that shore line must slip imperceptibly by as you inch along. Some boatmen rely on small electric trolling motors to do the job properly while others depend upon small auxiliary outboard motors to take over.

The main argument against worm trolling is that most of the bass caught via this technique are small, and here we cannot mount a proper rebuttal because the argument is valid. While it is true that most of the striped bass caught this way are "schoolies," running anywhere from sub-legal sizes known as "shorts" (less than sixteen inches from the point of the nose to the fork of the tail), up to fish that are just under teen weights, there are times that some cow will take a liking to those worms and raise hell with your nerves as she rapidly strips all the line from your reel. Although we have not been fooled as often as we would like to have been, we have boated lots of bass in the high teens, and my fishing buddy has a twenty-six pound beauty to his credit.

Because the fish are basically small, and also because of the shallow waters fished, light tackle is ideally suited to this technique. We use a 5½' Childre Bucktail Stick, delighting in the acute sense of feel Craig Childre's graphite miracle provides while offering an almost weightless wisp of a rod that still has the backbone to put the blocks to the biggies when needed. A reel similar to the Shimano Bantam 100 baitcaster will pack enough line to handle most any striper. It should be filled with a good grade mono of 10 lb. test. Here we digress from ultra-light to light tackle only because we employ ten pound test line as extra insurance against barnacle encrusted rocks, while our subconscious hopefully waits to tangle with that biggie that we are going to catch some day.



A brace of schoolies caught on light spinning tackle.

The simplest trolling rig is a hook tied directly to your line. Because of the predominance of schoolies, hook sizes can be as small as 3/0, but since bass have big, bucketmouths and there is always the chance of "hanging a twenty," we use 5/0 hooks. Here any hook that is offset has a tendency to twist while being trolled, so we opt for straight bends such as Sproats or O'Shaughnessys. Although you can use hooks snelled to heavier strength mono leaders, for extra protection against sharp gill plates or rough bottom, we prefer direct tying to our line.

Select a big, sassy, squirming sand worm and insert the point of the hook into its mouth, then slide the worm onto the hook, like stringing a bead, until you have gone past the bend. Bring the hook out through the worm and continue to string it until you reach the eye of the hook. Rigged in this manner, the worm will trail off the hook straight as an arrow, and because it is not bent around the bend of the hook, it will appear to be swimming naturally to the fish. A second worm can be added if desired, and should be hooked once through the hard part of the head and allowed to trail from the hook bend. Slide your offering into the water and let out anywhere from fifty to one hundred

(Continued on next page.)

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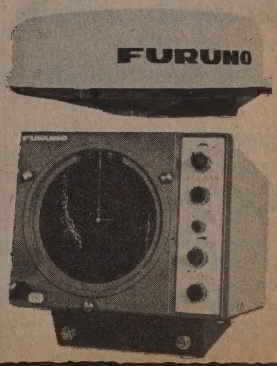

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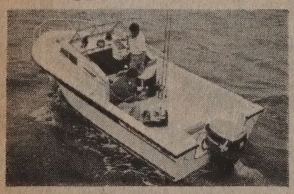

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feet of line, and drag that tempter as slowly and as close to the rocks as possible.

A variation of the above technique is the time honored worm and spinner, whereby a spinner is tied at the end of your line and your hook is attached to the spinner. For years we used what is known as a Cape Cod spinner, either a single or double-bladed willow leaf spin blade attached to a trace of wire that had a loop on one end and a snap loop on the other. The line was tied to the fixed loop and the snap held the leadered hook. Trolling techniques were the same as described above. At times the extra flash provided by the spinners were the little added incentive that prompted fish to strike, thereby increasing your catches.

Another variation is the use of the turkey bone lure, a rig that resembles a short white tube that holds two hooks: one at one end of the tube and the other slightly below that. Orginally constructed from a real turkey bone or from the leg bone of a loon, the bleached bone wobbled erratically as it was trolled and created a bubbled turbulence that attracted bass to the sand worms hanging from the attached hooks. This was also an excellent lure, and though the bone has given way to modern plastic, and though some hotshots use short lengths of vinyl or latex tubing, it still is effective enough to be included among the lures in your tackle box, for those days when nothing else seems to work right.

Still another variation is to use a swimming plug in conjunction with your worms. We take a seven inch Rebel floating plug and remove the treble hooks, leaving on the split rings that hold those hooks, and attaching a single hook to the tail ring with another split ring. Much effort is taken to make certain that the hook will ride upright after it is attached. The split ring that connected the belly hooks is used for this purpose, as we do not use any hook other than the one attached to the tail. Tying the Rebel to our line, we thread on a juicy worm or two exactly as described above for our simple trolling rig, and proceed to fish this also in the same manner thus described. Here though, those worms trailing off that shimmying Rebel plug have an added wiggle provided by their own natural swimming motion.

Use a landing net to boat to your fish. Small fish are not only hard to gaff, but should be released unharmed if they are undersized. Stricter than legal sanctions is your conscience; even if any fish caught are of legal keeping size, release them to grow larger if you do not want too many for your table. Plagued by several years of substandard breeding conditions for one reason or another, striped bass stocks are in a decline only our most diligent efforts can help to restore. Any released bass may be able to add to future stocks if given the opportunity, and besides, isn't the fun more in the catching than in the eating? I think it is!

To get back to my story, Joe and I were resigned to a trip to Sand's Point, to do a little porgy fishing near the stanchion off the lighthouse there. Fishing for porgies is a lot of fun too, and though we love bass fishing, we had no choice because of the low tide, the absence of the bass, and the restriction on our fishing time. With only a couple of hours left before darkness, we had to get fishing and get there fast to be back before dark. So Joe opened up the Georgia-B as I tied on some bottom rigs and checked the bait.

The sand worms knocked me for a loop! Expecting the usual, run-of-the-mill worms we had become accustomed to seeing, because of worm digging problems in Maine, those same moon tides we had down here had uncovered lightly worked beds up in Maine, and our worms looked like snakes. Showing the worms to Joe, I knew all thoughts of a few porgies before supper flew by the boards as he spun the Georgia-B into a sharp right turn and throttled down. We were headed, instead, to Hart Island, for a possible shot at some striped bass!

With but about another hour of outgoing water at best, the already low tide revealed a prolific bottom near Hart Island that we had never seen before. Sure, we had trolled over it many times, but in that low, lucidly clear water, we now saw why it was such a productive spot. The bottom was clean—no mud, no slime, no junk like we were used to seeing in other places around the Sound. The rocky, gravel-strewn bottom held a lot of plant life, and there were a lot of sandy patches that revealed clams, another striped tidbit and another reason, perhaps, that made this a particular bass hangout. Close by were numerous giant boulders that provided bass cover, both as ambush points as well as protection.

Well, we switched over to our plug rigs and slipped on some worms in a hurry, and settled into our trolling pattern, which was parallel to the shore line. Our first run was from north to south, and with the tide. At the end of our run we decided to troll back, rather than race back to our starting point and begin another run all over again. We were headed from south to north this time and against the tide.

Joe connected first, his rod heeling over as the fish struck. I was preparing to net it as my own rod bent over with a nice fish. We had a double, two fish on at the same time in water that looked to be only inches deep. Here we were, under all the wrong conditions, catching striped bass (we caught a few more bass before dead-low tide signalled an abrupt end to our fun). When no self-respecting bass man would even have attempted fishing. We had gone out and caught our striped bass "against all odds!"

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Montauk Report

by Stu Miller

Capt John DeMaio of the charterboat **Vivienne** called to say bluefish catches have really jumped for him this past week, with up to 84 5 to 6 lb. blues for angler party. Monday morning's trip resulted in 40 blues from 5 to 6 lbs. and 10 weakfish up to 10 lbs. but averaging 7½ lbs. This party fished light line. They also picked one stray cod. John says the fish are now on the bottom and are responding very well to diamond jigs. He's doing most of his fishing 1½ hours due south of the Point.

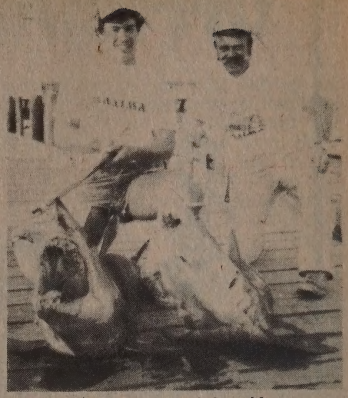
Rich Erickson of Somerset, N.J. poses with a catch of 76 porgies taken at Montauk aboard the "Viking Starlite."

Capt Buddy Dorman of the 6 man limit open boat **Waxed** reports that his porgy action continues very good at the Point. Three men on a mid-week trip scored with 288 lbs. of porgies, mostly all jumbos on worm and clam. Buddy says he will continue to be working the lighthouse area.

Carl Darenburg Jr. of **Montauk Marine Basin** called just before we went to press Monday and forwarded the report from the charterboat **Montauk** which came to him over the VHF. The boat left the day before on an overnighter and had so far 2 white marlin in the 50 to 60 lb. range, 4 small to medium makos, 15 albacore in the 25 to 45 lb. range, 12 yellowfin tuna in the 60 lb. class and they also lost an approximate 200 lb. blue marlin. They've been working 40 fathoms at night and 25 miles south of the Point during the day. Also, aboard Ken Hayn's Ken-Glo Mitch Wilkens accounted for a 454 lb. mako this past week.

Gone Fishing Marina reports porgies holding their own at Great Eastern on clam. Fluke being taken at North Rips on sandeels, squid and fluke belly. Bluefish being trolled and diamond jigged at the Sub-Buoy and SE of Block Island. The Parker Brothers of Brightwaters bagged a 53 lb. white malrin plus a 42 lb. bluefin tuna on the charterboat **Nostalgia II** Saturday. They fished 25 miles SE of the Point on green machiens. This was the second white marlin taken on the **Nostalgia II** this week. Pete and Bill Descovich of Glen Head pulled 22 cod to 11 lbs. and 12 blues at Block Island plus 70 porgies at Great Eastern on the boat Alica Ann.

Charterboat **Honey Bun** sailing out of Snug Harbor Motel and Marina, on Saturday fished John McTerun and party scoring with 3 makos, 2 of them hitting approximately 100 lbs. and the 3rd a lot smaller. Two huge makos in the 700 lb. class were in the slick for a short time. Sunday's trip for Jim Weihart of NYC scored with a 70 lb. yellowfin tuna and a 100 lb. class mako. A 15' tiger shark was battled but finally broke off at the leader.



Chuck Ruf and John Keegan show off a pair of makos weighing 127 and 96 lbs. taken aboard the "Mako Express" at Montauk.

Charterboat **Mako Express** with Capt Zac at the wheel, had an 80 lb. white marlin Saturday for R. Martin and friend of NYC. Charterboat **Barracuda** reports a 155 lb. mako taken Saturday and a 100 lb. mako boated on Sunday. This was for Carl Martin of Bay Shore. Capt Joe of the charterboat **My Mate** fished Joe Carmichael of Queens. They released some blue sharks after being tagged and brought back a 30 lb. mako. The boat has some choice offshore dates available and Joe says he's been having good inshore fishing around the sub buoy for weaks and blues.

Henry at **Star Island Yacht Club** reports that Ian Victor hooked and landed a 875 lb. tiger shark on Friday fishing 25 miles SE of the Point. Saturday the private boat Yesterday bagged a 325 lb. swordfish at Hudson Canyon on one of Henry's rigged squids. Yellowfin tuna, white marlin and bigeye tuna have been brought in and a couple of blue marlin have been dropped this week. Lots of offshore action. Weaks and blues at the sub buoy and south of Block but not super strong. **Star Island Yacht Club's** 2nd Annual Tuna Tournament will be held Sept. 12th and 13th. Big cash prizes will be awarded. Call for info and applications. See ad for number.

Charter boat **Adios** reports that on the offshore scene school tuna were taken for the Freimberg party. Giants have been spotted in the same area, roughly 20 miles south of the Point but they don't seem to be feeding. White marlin have been seen in large numbers in various areas. An inshore charter for Dr. Meritt and sons George and James, produced over 60 blues for a half-day trip. Same results on a half day trip for Bob May of Congers, N.Y.

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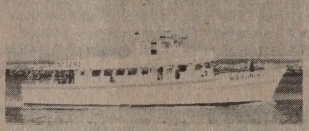

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South Shore Report

by Fred Golofaro

MORICHES BAY

From **Skidmore's Fishing Station**, Jim reported very good fluking throughout this past week in the area north of buoy 39. Salty Dog and squid combos or spearing and squid have been the ticket. In Saturday's rain, Bob Purcell and friends returned with a catch of 47 keepers from buoy 39. They were high hook for the week. Biggest fish last week was a 7¼ lb. doormat taken by Bill Marholt on a Salty Dog and squid. Plenty of snappers in the area and crabs remain in good supply.

Gary at **Silly Lily Fishning Station** said fluking was good this week with catches averaging 15-25 fish per boat. During the week, Pete Giacalone and a friend totaled 27 fluke up to 3 lbs. in the vicinity of buoy 41. They used sand eels and squid. The flats north of buoy 39 have been producing the best fishing with the last part of incoming water and first part of outgoing the best time. At low water Gary suggested trying buoy 33.

Al at **Hi-Way Fishing Station** said that while fluking was excellent during the week it slowed in Saturday's rain and was again slow on Sunday. Best fish weighed in over the weekend was a doormat of 7¾ lbs. taken on Sunday by one of the marina's boats. Snappers are plentiful but small and there are plenty of crabs in Forge River and at the bridge. Overall, Al described this fluke season as the best in a long time.

MASTIC BEACH

Gary at **Stiriz Fishing Station** filed an enthusiastic report on the crabbing in the area. Blue claws are being taken between buoys 9 and 17 on traps and rings with the latter having an edge. Bunker has been the best bait. Catches of up to 200 crabs have been brought back to the station. Of the fluke, Gary described it as fair to good between buoys 19-27. Lots of shorts are still being taken but the average catch of keepers per boat remains around 12-15. There was a nice showing of blowfish at buoy 19 and plenty of snappers around the marina for kids and oldsters alike.

SAYVILLE

From **Formato's Fishing Station**, Fred reported that while Saturday was a washout the weakfishing in general has been good. To demonstrate what is possible, Lee and Helen fished about a mile off of Port O'Call

on Sunday and totalled 60 weakfish from 2-3 lbs. Fish have also been taken in good supply along the East Line and at buoy 5. Squid strips are doing the most damage. Fred called the fluking fair with the best results still at buoys 15 and 17.

WEST SAYVILLE

A good run of small weaks from 1½ to 3 lbs. behind the dredge boats and 2 miles out in front of the station on squid strips and Salty dogs, according to Vinnie at **South Bay Fishing Station**. On Sunday, Gary McDonald and Paul O'Connell used squid strips to take 22 weaks up to 3½ lbs. Small blues are scattered around the area also and fluke remain in fair supply at Ocean Beach. Couple of kingfish around and crabbing and snapper fishing in local creeks is excellent.

OAKDALE

Dave at **J&N Sports Center** also spoke of a good run of weakfish between Heckscher and Sayville, 1½ to 2 miles off the beach. Squid strips, sand worms and Salty Dogs have all been effective on the yellowfins. Bigger weaks, up to 7 or 8 lbs. in the Pocket at the Sore Thumb on jelly worms. Fluking in the bay remains worthwhile although quite a few shorts are still being taken. Fishing ranges anywhere from Kismet to the inlet. Lots of life offshore from 110' of water on out.

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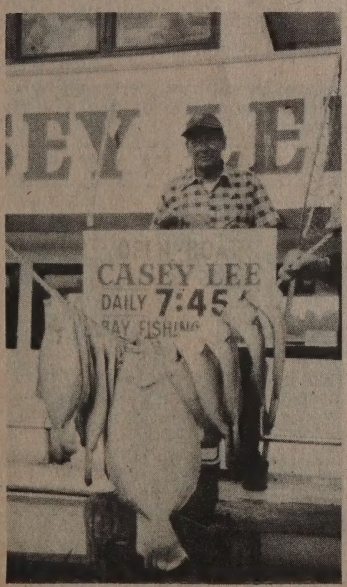
EAST ISLIP

From **Peppy's Bait and Tackle** Irene reported that Jimmy Goddard of Iskip Terrace used an artificial in Brookwood Hall to take a 1½ lb. largemouth bass. On the saltwater scene, Mike and Lisa, aboard the Sea Scape, trolled a mess of small blues on umbrella rigs off of the Sore Thumb late on Sunday. Offshore, lots of tuna and bonito southeast of the inlet from 150' on out. Small weaks being taken at buoy 4 on sand worms and squid and lots of snappers at local docks.



Bill Stone of Bay Shore with a super catch of fluke made in Great South Bay aboard the open boat "Casey Lee."

BAY SHORE

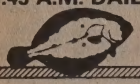
Carl at **Smokeys Bait and Tackle** checked in a largemouth bass of 5.14 lbs. for Mervyn Cover. The fish came from the Carmens River and was taken on a surface plug. Fluking in the inlet area has been good, with the best fishing occurring during the last two hours of the flood. Both sand eels or spearing and squid have been taking fish. Small blues being trolled on umbrella rigs or on cast Rebels from the lighthouse to the inlet. Weakfish in the cove at Oak Beach on red jelly worms. One customer totalled 60 of the fish in four trips this past week. Few small bass being trolled on umbrella rigs in the inlet during the early morning or evening hours. Blues from 5-12 lbs. at Cholera on jigs and chum with some bonito mixed in. Good marlin and tuna action from 130' of water on out. Catch of the week belonged to Ed McCarthy. Visting from Houston, Texas, Ed put away a 71 lb. white marlin using a red and white feather in 160' of water, 140° frok Fire Island Inlet. What made the catch notable was that it was taken on a Penn Jigmaster reel loaded with 20 lb. test.

CAPTREE

Captain Gordon Roman of the **Captree Queen** said fluking continued very good overall, with many of the fish being taken above the 14" minimum size limit. The skipper has been fishing buoys 8 and 10, East Channel and from Kismet to the Robert Moses Bridge. Best action has been on the last half of the incoming and first part of the outgoing. There's been a definite improvement in the night bluefishing with fish being caught every night. The boat has been working southwest of the inlet at Cholera, 3 Sisters Wreck and the NB buoy. Some nights fish run 2-4 lbs., but at times 10-15 lb. choppers take over. The better nights see catches of 10-15 fish per man. The skipper noted that there has been a super abundance of bait, including anchovies, butterfish and squid all over the ocean and feels this has kept the fish from settling down in any one area. As an example, there was excellent fishing at Patchogue Saturday, while on Sunday night the same area was

BAYSHORE

FLUKE
7:45 A.M. DAILY



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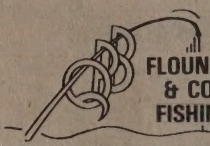

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unproductive.

The charter boat **Eleanor** reported a Saturday charter for Potamkin Cadillac which was headed by Tom McDermott resulted in a very good of fluking in West Channel. A few sea bass and blowfish were also taken along with a 7 lb. weakfish. On Sunday, the Babylon Lions Club headed by Mr. Vitarelli fished the West Channel area and enjoyed a steady pick of fluke and sea bass. The skipper reminded that they still have some night bluefish dates available and please check their ad for details.

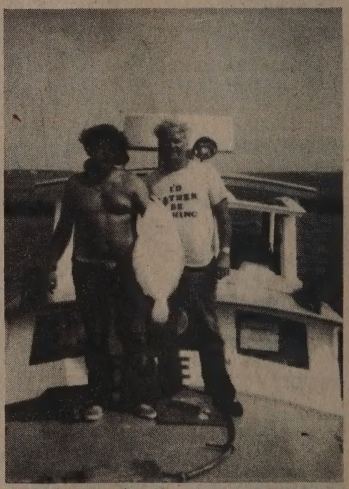
The latest addition to the Captree fleet. The **Captain Joseph** just arrived at the boat basin. The 78' all aluminum vessel is now the largest boat at Captree. It will be sailing open 7AM and 7PM daily for blues from the left side of the dock. Captains Bob Cook, Eddie Brincat and Stan Joseph will be sharing chores. The boat will be ready to sail this Thursday, August 13th. On the fishing front, the **Capt. Joseph II** loaded up with big blues at Patchogue Saturday night. Fish were in the 8-12 lb. range with Virginia Kilgore leading the way with 16 of the big choppers.

Captain Ron Peters of the charter boat **Yankee III** fished a half day fluke trip for the Merrick Wood Day Camp Most youngster managed 2-3 keepers apiece fishing between East and West Island. On Sunday, the skipper found very good action on the last of the ebb in this area. Pool fish was a 3½ lber. taken by Bert Nival. Captain Ron added that lots of small sea bass are mixed with the fluke as well as a couple of blowfish.

Captain George Tweedy of the open boat **Capt. Scotty** reported a slaughter at Patchogue on Saturday night. Fish were 8 to 12 lbs. and some fares had as many as 25 of the big fish. During the week, there was a fair pick of blues on jigs fishing to the southwest with most of these fish in the 3-4 lb. class. Daytime action on the weekend dropped off to almost nothing.

Captain Marty of the **Jib VI** said that fluking in the bay remains steady. Overall he described the fishing as very good. Best action has been in the West Island-Kismet Area and it appears fishing will remain good throughout the season as there is a good supply of fish in the bay. On the **Jib VII** Captain Joe reported a catct of 200 big blues for 17 fares on the Patchogue Grounds Saturday night. Unfortunately the action did not carry over to Sunday.

The open boat **Capt. Bob Joseph** described fluking as pretty good in West Channel, at the light, the bridge and the inlet. Best bluefishing has been at night with some trips catching real good and others picky. Patchogue was alive with 8-12 lb. blues on Saturday night, but it appeared to be



This fine fluke weighed in at 8 lbs. 5 oz. It was taken by Steve Kearney on a killy and squid combo aboard the Seaford open boat "Chinco."

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a one-shot deal. Most of the better fishing has been SW of the inlet.

Captain Ed Laske of the charter boat **Dixie** asked us to remind customers that he has many open dates left for September including weekends.

BABYLON

Ralph at **Augie's Bait and Tackle** reported good marlin action in from 100 to 140 feet of water southeast of the inlet. Acres of tuna spread from 130' to 180' of water but not all are of the biting variety. Bill Miller aboard the Gannet put 6 yellowfin and 4 longfin albacore in the box in 150' of water, while the party time had over 20 yellowfins and 20 longfins fishing in the area of the Compass Rose over the weekend. Far and away the best offshore lure has been the Bullet Head Yap and the all eye Yap. Inshore plenty of weaks in the Sore Thumb pocket. On Thursday, Bob, Dennis and Kevin Miccio totalled 26 weaks using red Jelly worms in the inlet. Lots of small blues around and fluke have shown some improvement in size. Good snapper fishing at all the local docks.

Suffolk Marine held their first Annual Fish-Off last Monday. The affair was won by Bill Miller of the Gannet with a yellowfin tuna of 67 lbs. It was taken on a red and white feather in 140' of water southeast of Fire Island inlet.

Charter boat **Luci II** fished a bay charter headed by Paul Pallieno on Sunday. A mixed bag of sea bass, small blues and fluke was taken by the party. Pool fish was a 6 lb. fluke. The skipper noted that plenty of tuna are spread between the HA buoy and the Texas tower and there are good numbers of bonito in 120' of water. Shark fishing has been picky.

LINDENHURST

Mike at **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle** reported a catch of 8 fluke, 1 blue and 1 sea bass for Sal Locascio, Jr and Sr in Saturday's rain. They fished the state channel at Copiague. On Sunday, Sue and Bill Everling checked in with a load of fluke taken on outgoing water near the Sore Thumb. Plenty of 1-3 lb. sea bass have taken up residence on the Fire Island ocean reef. Lots of yellowfin tuna around the Texas Tower while the canyon has swordfish, marlin, yellowfins and bigeyes.

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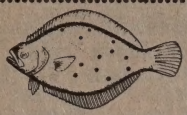
AMITYVILLE

From **George Combs Bait and Tackle** Maria emphasized the excellent action being found by offshore anglers anywhere from 90' of water on out to the edge of the canyon. Yellowfin tuna, marlin and bigeye tuna have been providing the bulk of the excitement with green and yellow, red and white and blue the best colors for trollers. A few nice weakfish being

CAPTREE



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taken from Zachs Bay down to the short beach Coast Guard station on sand worms, while the best fluking continues to be in the state channel on spearing or killies. Crabs in good supply on the Copiague flats and Maria asked us to let people know they now have a good supply of Chesapeake Bay style crab traps in stock. The canyon tournament sponsored by Squadron Anglers this past weekend was labeled a huge success. Complete results will be forthcoming.

AMITY HARBOR

The charter boat **Super Bee** fished a fluke charter in Fire Island Inlet on Friday. Passengers averaged 5 fish per man up to 3 lbs. on sand eels and squid. A nice mess of blues were trolled during the morning before switching over to the fluke.

SEAFORD

Lon at **Wanser's Bait and Tackle** described the fluking as pretty poor this week. There are however plenty of snappers and crabs around and boatmen drifting sand worms have been taking some nice weaks at the 3rd bridge, the Meadowbrook bridge and in Haunts Creek. Blues come and go at the inlet and are pretty well spread around offshore.m

At **Pop's Fishing Station**, John called Saturday a washout although decent fluke fishing was the rule during the week. A lot of shorts still around with the ratio of shorts to keepers generally about 5 to 1. One of the better catches made this week was haul of 35 keepers taken on spearing in the Squaw Island area by Ed Becker and Don Love. On Sunday Joe and Henry Erickson along with Joe Sysak kept 12 out of 40 fluke taken from the Drain near buoys 13 and 14. A good supply of blue claw crabs now in the area reminded John.

John at **Capt. Eddie's Fishing Station** said that most fluke are being taken at Squaw Island between the 2nd and 3rd bridges. Quite a few of the fish are shorts but there are some keepers mixed. Killies, sand eels and spearing have all been effective. A few weaks from 7-9 lbs. taken on bunker at the 3rd Wantagh bridge. Lots of crabs being taken from the marina dock along with plenty of snappers.

BELLMORE

From **Merrick Tackle** Scott spoke of plenty of snappers and an improvment in the local crabbing. School bass are being plugged on small silver poppers back in the bay. Offshore there is lot of tuna and blowfish action between the tower and the canyon.

MERRICK

Jimmy at **Nicks Fishing Station** reported some bass were taken this past week on live bunker inside the bay. George Zipper checked in fish of 45 and 27 lbs. on Wednesday while Dennis Newman took one or two fish everyday last week. His son Dennis Jr., got his first bass ever, a 16 lber. A fair number of weaks from 6-8 lbs. at the Meadowbrook bridge on snappers and sandworms. Lots of fluke but many are shorts at Merrick Pt. and the golf course. Pay heed to the 14" minimum size limit on the fluke as COs are active in the area. One boatman was hit with 10 violations for shorts one day last week. On Thursday and Friday there was some excellent blue and weakfishing off the Jones Beach Tower but action died over the weekend. Small snappers are all over the place according to Jimmy.

New York Bight Report

by Stu Miller

FREEPORT

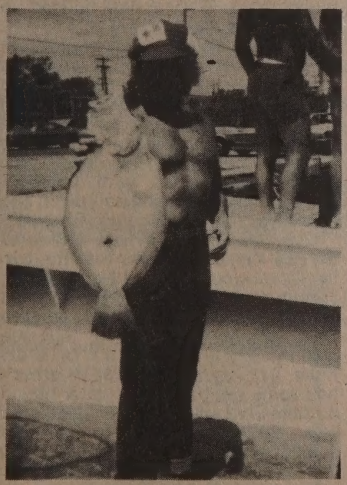
Capt Tony of the **Miss Freeport II** called to say that he's been doing much of his fluking to the east this past week. A goodly number of keepers coming up amongst the shorties on sandeels, killies and squid. The night bluefishing trips have improved greatly over this past week says the skipper fishing bait and chum to the west.

The **Capt Gary** reports Saturday's bluefishing for Pete Kezhez and friends was poor but the afternoon fluking was good. Sunday's fluke charter for Ray Lang and friends was very good in the Reynold's area with a decent number of keepers. High hook was 7 keepers. Pool winner was Sal Cabibbo. Little John caught a 4 lb. keeper fluke. Total for the day was 55 keepers.

Capt Pat of the charterboat **Lady J III** last Friday night had a moonlight cruise fund raiser for the Association for the Help of Retarded Children (AHRC). Monday's trip for Nassau County PD had 150 blues and 15 big weakfish. The catch included an 8½ lb. fluke taken on a jig which took the pool fishing the channels. Steve Echerer had the pool fish and high hook honors too. Wednesday's trip for Twin Car Service of Woodside saw 10 men bag nearly 200 bluefish at Ambrose on jigs. Friday's trip for Xerox, NYC, jigged up 85 blues of mixed sizes south of Ambrose's. Saturday's charter for Go Airborn of Hauppauge had a fair catch of blues despite the rain. Sunday's charter for Engine 4, Elmont FD totaled 65 keeper fluke up to 8½ lbs. fishing the channels. Pat says there is lots of bird activity and lots of ocean life.

Capt Joe of the charterboat **Ivory Queen** called to say that his party on Saturday was entered in the Hudson Anglers Invitation Shark Tournament. This was Al Vaskas of the Forest Park Inn Fishing Club, Woodhaven, and Al took 2nd place honors. Hank Detmers bagged a 90 lb. dusky. Pat Tirino on the rod hooked and landed a 240 lb. mako which was the 2nd place fish. The fish took $500 and several tackle prizes. It took Pat 40 minutes on the rod to land this bruiser.

Larry Izzo at **Mako Marina** gives us the results of the Hudson Anglers Shark Tournament held at **Mako Marina** this weekend. 1st place, 328 lb. tiger shark for Tom McGuire on the charterboat **Christy Lee**. 2nd place, 242 lb. mako for Al Vaskas aboard charterboat **Ivory Queen**. 3rd place, a 141 lb. sandbar shark for Ralph Lederman on Norman Miller's Rainbow Runner. There were 10 prizes in all and Larry wishes to thank all who participated in the tournament. A 597 lb. tiger shark was



This 7 lb. doormat was taken aboard the "Capt. Lou IV" by Bob Spanpimato of Jamaica Estates.

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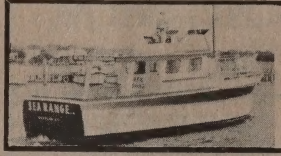

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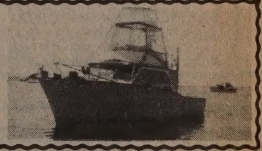

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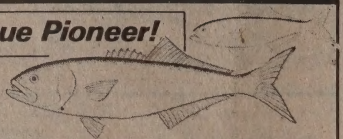

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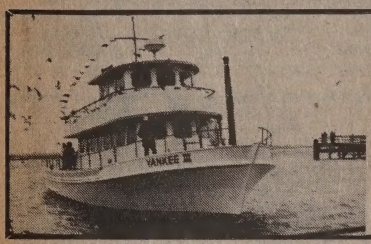

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weighed in also but arrived too late to qualify.

Capt Joe Long of the charterboat **Nite Owl** reports super skippie fishing Sunday at the 550 line on home made leadheads. Fish ran 4 to 5 lbs. and the charter also had a 30 lb. longfin albacore. Fishing in Saturday's Hudson Anglers Tournament Joe's party had 3 small shark.

The **Capt Al** reports plenty of bluefish around all this past week though it was a little tough racking up a score in Saturday's rain, with lots of people remaining in the cabin and getting out when the boat stopped on fish but always too late to get their jigs down before the fish moved on. Sunday's fishing was 10 miles off the beach between Deb's and the NB. All week long the action was south of Ambrose through buoy 4. Monday it was at the Tin Can Grounds, fish ranged from 1 to 9 lbs. with some big weakfish mixed in. The night fishing has been a little on the picky side on bait, but Al says there are plenty of fish around.

Starstream II reports decent bluefishing all week long. Wednesday approximately 1000 bluefish in the 1 to 5 lb. range were taken with an occasional larger fish. Thursday and Friday were very good also, all on diamond jigs. The night trips have been hot and cold on bait and chum. The day fishing has been the better choice of the two.

The **Blue Fin Fleet** reports bluefishing has been fair all week with some very good trips sailed. e.g. 35 blues taken high hook honors for Terry Weisbrot of Suffern. These were 3 to 5 lb. fish taken on jigs Wednesday from the NB buoy to Ambrose. Saturday saw Joe Epilone of Holbrook take the pool with a 7 lb. weakfish. Nighttime high hook Friday was Paul Hartenstein with 11 blues up to 4 lbs. on bait at 17 fathoms. Large fish of the week was a 10 lb. blue hoisted up on Sunday's day trip.

Sea Isle Sports tells of lots of bluefish between Deb's and the Ambrose Tower smacking diamond jigs. Bluefin tuna around the HA with a 115 pounder the biggest Ronnie knew of for the week, tuna grabbing at green machines and cedar jigs. Middle Bay loaded with blueclaw crabs. Flounders being caught in the Meadowbrook Bridge area. Biggies.

Capt Walt Scott's **Freeport Charter Service Acme II** reports that the trip for Tanglewood Summer Day Camp of Lynbrook saw the kids take a mixed catch of keeper fluke, midgets and sea bass. Natalie Centrola, 13, took the pool in Long Creek with a 6 lb. 3 oz. fluke. Ed Vesey's group of Westbury had some exciting white water action on blues NE of Ambrose Tower and also jigging at the channels for smaller blues. Walt called in many of the boats on this exciting white water action and they all loaded up.

The **Capt Lou III** reports Wednesday, Thursday and Friday they fished the ocean with very good catches of 2½ to 5 lb. fluke. Weather permitting

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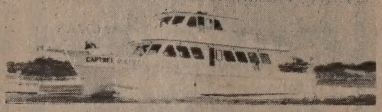

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the all day boat will continue through the remainder of the fluke season fishing jumbos in the ocean. High hook was in the teens Wednesday. The **Capt Lou IV** (half-day boat) is also finding some larger fluke in the back waters of Freeport, catches better on the morning tides.

Freeport Boatmen's Association reports that the **Super Spray II** has been finding an improving number of keepers on it's 2 a day fluke schedule working Jone's Inlet and Reynold's Channel with sandeels and squid. Night bluefishing trips have been very good most nights and fair other nights on chum and bait working anywhere from the Cholera to the west with fish of mixed sizes. The Christy Lee fishing Charlie Laswell in the Hudson Angler's Shark Tournament took 1st place with a big tiger shark and Sunday's charter managed 5 tuna for Steve of Columbia Meats. The bluefishing boats had good action south of Playland, jigging 3 to 5 pounders and also some 8 to 10 pounders. Amongst these boats Sunday was the Norsman, **Acme II**, Atlantic and Corsair. On Saturday the Capt II fishing buoy 4 diamond jigged weaks and blues. The trolling boats Mistress and Barbara Ann fished south of Cholera for larger blues on umbrellas. Big Foot and Fisherman loaded up on skipjack offshore.

Lou's Fishing Station reports lots of weakfish offshore south of Jone's in 40 to 60' of water, also south of the tower on bluefish hitting tigertails and A 27s with tails. Sharking slow. Canyon boats are doing nicely. Saturday saw the Thumper score with a swordfish and 18 yellowfin tuna and longfin tuna up to 87 lbs. Sunday aboard the Red Witch 30 yellowfin tuna up to 80 lbs. along with some longfin albacore were taken. All these fish were over 50 lbs. This was on green machines, jetheads and cedar jigs.

Charterboat **Nan-Sea** on Saturday had JJT Trucking of Flushing with a good catch of blues, weaks and bonito working SW of Jone's in 50' of water on umbrellas. They also had 6 weakfish which were on the bottom. Sunday's trip for Bob Verga and party of Farmingdale tagged and released 1 dusky and a small tiger working the edge of the Mud Hole.

On a recent trip to the Texas Tower, Fred Ciliotta, Joe Capra and Frank DiMattie of Massapequa, fishing aboard the Maria, boated a 48 lb. white marlin on a green machine. Two yellowfin tuna, 60 lb. class, were also boated.

BALDWIN

Arthur Street Fishing Station talks of the plentiful blueclaw crabs in all the creeks, at all the docks and especially in Middle Bay. 1 to 2 lb. blues hitting killies in Middle Bay, intended for fluke. Snappers all over the place from 8 to 10''. Fluking okay, still plenty of shorties. One marina boat returned from Reynold's with 17

Ed Ross landed this 100 lb. mako aboard the Point Lookout charter boat "Marie III." It was caught 4 miles E.-S.E. of the HA buoy.

keeper fluke. Especially good fluking just off the bar in Scow Creek on killies and squid.

POINT LOOKOUT

Charterboat **Marie III** tells us that his offshore tuna and shark trip Tuesday and Thursday saw a lot of bluefin and yellowfin tuna hooked but dropped. They also saw acres and acres of bonito and skipjack and caught a good number trolling. A marlin came up in the slick Tuesday but would not hit. A large shark which never surfaced was dropped. The boat has a few weekday dates open for the best of the tuna season which is to come. Sunday's fluke trip in Reynold's Channel and Garrett's Lead saw a lot of shorts but an average of 1 to 3 keepers per person for the ladies division of the Merrick Rod and Gun Club. This was on spearing, sandeels and squid.

Ed's Fishing Station tells of a lot of short fluke still in the picture with the best keeper area being Reynold's Channel buoys 16, 17 and 18 and the golf course. On Thursday 3 men in one skiff had 32 keepers out of a total catch of 57 fluke. These 3 men were Ed Puzio, Chris Wolak and Chris Fabyanczuk of Wallington NJ. Crabs in the flats off Reynold's Channel. Meadowbrook Bridge area and Swift Creek are producing small sea bass and porgies on worms and clam. Snappers are around.

Scotty's Fishing Station tells us that Jim Woods on his boat Jennie B along with some friends had 120 lbs. of blues and 80 lbs. of weakfish fishing SE of Jone's Tower on umbrellas fishing 3 miles off the beach. Fish ran from 6 to 10 lbs. and they were caught Thursday, Friday and Sunday. The station's rental skiffs are averaging 4

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Rose White with 2 of 8 fluke she caught on a skiff rented from J-Bay Boat Rentals.

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to 6 keeper fluke a boat which include a lot of 3 to 5 pounders. Lots of shorts around. The inlet has been better for larger fish this week, on the Coast Guard side. Flounders are being taken 20 to 40 a skiff in the Meadowbrook Sloop Channel area on worms. Try the deeper holes. Lots of action with few hook-ups offshore.

ISLAND PARK

Richie at **Beckmann's Tackle** in Lynbrook says snappers are around in fair abundance. Blueclaw crabs are the best he's seen in 2 years. They are all over the bay and at all the bulkheads with night jacking being super. Flounders are around in large size in the deep holes of the State Channel. A few weakfish at the Meadowbrook Bridge on sandworms fished on the bottom.

Capt Clem of the **Commodore** says weather permitting he is continuing to fish the channels with catches averaging 4 to 8 keeper fluke a man in the 2 to 5 lb. range. Big fish of the week was an 8 lb. fluke taken at the Tin Can Grounds. He's catching all nice fish, 99 percent keepers. Depending on the tides the boat is fishing Sandy Hook, Tin Can, Coney Island Flats or either side of Ambrose. Clem says it is not a slaughter, it beats pulling up and throwing back midgets all day long.

The charterboat **Capt Tom** reports that Saturday's bluefish trip for Manhattan Cable TV jigged 5 to 6 lb. blues at Ambrose and later on fished off Deb's Inlet 4 to 5 miles out for another rapid pick on jigs of these bluefish. Sunday's charter for Nites of Pithias, Channel Lodge, fished the channels and Tin Can. High hook was Howard and Steven Finkelstein with 10 keeper fluke between them. Fifteen people had 50 keeper fluke all in the 4 lb. class. Only 4 fish that day went under 4 lbs. aside from 4 throwbacks. They also picked some sea bass. This was on spearing, squid and sandeels.

LONG BEACH

Long Beach Sports Marina tells of big fluke taken all through Reynold's Channel this week. Hot spots were the Atlantic Beach CG Station and Buoy 1. Roger Porceller took a 9¾ lb. fluke Sunday. Ed Rindfleisch had several fluke in the 6 to 8 lb. range. Pat Kenniery managed two 5 pounders while Tom Costantagons took a 5 lb. fluke. Seven year old Eric Haag had a 4½ pounder. All tides produced. Blues and weaks slowed a lot in Reynold's but were trolled in 60' of water off Jone's. Try the Tin Can for fluke, blues and weaks on jigs. Snappers and blueclaw crabs all over the place.

EAST ROCKAWAY

Eric at **Skippy's Bait & Tackle** tells us that Jerry and Rich Born of Valley Stream fishing the can Sunday had fluke of 6½, 7½ and 3½ lbs. on

spearing and squid. Lots of short fluke still around but the Tin Can and channels have been best for larger fluke. Snappers are growing. Loads of blueclaw crabs in Bay Park. A few stripers at night at the bridges on clam bellies or on sandworms. Schoolie fish.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Capt Ron Lepper of the charterboat **Kim** reports that he's been having super bluefishing from Sea Bright to Sandy Hook and from Breezy Point jetty to the Rockaways, with 2 to 5 lb. fish hitting jigs and umbrellas. Sharking has been slow and weakfish have thinned out but are still around, also falling prey to jigs and umbrellas. Fair amount of bass up to 15 lbs. is mixed in with the blues and weaks.

Al at **Reynold's Reef Fishing Station** reports that the Atlantic Beach Bridge has been producing big fluke on both sides from 5 to 9 lbs. on live snapper. Same results on the red side of Ambrose. Some blacks from 2 to 3 lbs. at the Atlantic Beach Bridge on green crabs and clam. Mike Frends on his boat Mirage fishing with Capt Hi Vogel, Marty Pyser, Mike and Ralph Scarpati fished the Tennisen Wreck which is 30 miles SE of the Virginia Wreck and on clam bait beat the drums with 67 cod and 6 pollack. Aboard the Compass Rose IV Jessie York, J. York, Sid Alter, Paul Stein and Ned Shamiuskian fishing Virginia Wreck had a 41 lb. cod, a 69 lb. yellowfin tuna, 73 lb. yellowfin tuna and a 51 lb. white marlin. Fred Hall on his 4 Queens took a 6 lb. 9 oz. fluke and is now leading the fluke division of the Atlantic Beach Rod and Gun Club.

JAMAICA BAY

Cross Bay Bait & Tackle reports porgies good from both bridges in the ¾ to 1 lb. range. Sandworms are working best as are both tides. Snappers very good also off both the North and South Channel Bridges on spearing. Sunday saw Al Bender

Scott Saylor hefts doormats weighing 7 and 10 lbs. respectively. The youngster landed the fish in Swift Creek after renting a boat at Ed's Fishing Station.

score with an 8½ lb. fluke fishing under the Marine Parkway Bridge with fluke belly and sandeel from his boat Sly Fox. Some blues, weaks and stripers are hitting again on bunker chunks and sandworms at night under the bridges.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Capt Walt Wiegand of the **Flamingo III** reports very good bluefishing all week except for Saturday which he classified as "so-so". Sunday in the late afternoon they had a complete slaughter which lasted a full hour on 2 to 8 lb. blues. Jigs did the trick while hundreds of birds worked and fish were breaking all over the place. During the week the boat has been working from the Rockaways to the Jersey coast, particularly the channels, Tin Can and Sandy Hook, all on jigs. A lot of bait is in the water especially an abundance of small butterfish.

Pilot II, the area's blackfish specialist, tells us that Saturday's fishing was phenominal. They had loads of blackfish from 2 to 7 lbs. with lots of 4 to 5 pounders on one wreck. Lots of doubles were taken. A load of ling was taken off a second deep wreck, fish in the 2 to 6 lb. category. Sunday saw poor fishing conditions so results were not as good as Saturday's.

Capt Kevin of the **Dorothy B** reports good fluking at the channels and the Tin Can with tides being very important here. Big fish for the week was a 7 lb. fluke. Fluke are averaging 2 lbs. and there are just a few midgets. Most pool fish are going around 5 lbs. There is an average of roughly 12 keepers per man on sandeels, spearing and fluke belly.

The **Elsie K III** has had the same general type of fishing as just described.

Capt John of the charterboat **Thermocline** called to say that canyon fishing was still good this weekend. He trolled green machines and had bigeye tuna up to 86 lbs. Also a 60 lb. longfin albacore was boated. Locally, good bluefishing was had on the Tin Can Grounds with weakfish mixed in on diamond jigs.

Charlie at **Mike's Tackle** reports bluefishing a little slow for the party boats on the weekend at night but the day bluefishing was good at Ambrose and Klondike on diamond jigs. Fish are mixed sizes. A few fluke over 8 lbs. have been taken at the Coney Island Flats and Jersey grounds. Weaks are picking up on the black side of Ambrose on baby bait tails in the ¾ oz. variety. Weaks are running 8 to 12 lbs. The bay is loaded with 6" snappers. A few blueclaw crabs in the bay and at the pilings.

STATEN ISLAND

John at **Santo's Sport Shop** tells us that he, Lenny Killorin of the shop, and Danny Holmsey on Sunday racked up 23 weaks from 6 to 12 lbs. fishing Great Kills Harbor on drifted

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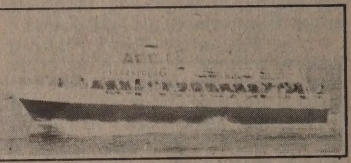

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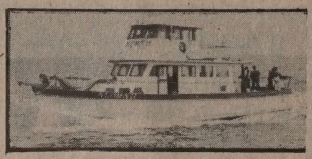

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sandworms on 6 lb. test line for all 3. They lost an equal number of fish. This was on high outgoing water and John says they are in solid. A lot of fluke of all dimensions in Great Kills Harbor on bait. Big weakfish being trolled off Old Orchard Lighthouse on green and red single tubes. Some big blues at West Bank Lighthouse on bunker chunks. In the surf some blues and weaks off piers 8, 10 and 12 on chunks and diving plugs. Fluke and porgies are a likely target off all beaches for casters on worm and clam.

North Shore Report

by Martin Garrell

NEW ROCHELLE

John Palmieri at **John's Gun & Tackle** said that bluefish have been all over the area during the last few days. Typical fish taken on top are 12-14 lbs., but Robert Aurisy managed to take a 23 lber. with 12# line on chunk bait off Mamaroneck. Snapper fishing is on the upswing, and there are a few porgy schools off New Rochelle. Worm trollers are still picking up schoolie bass at night.

Capt Pete Pearson on the **Klondike** reported fishing overall has been good though they had a couple so-so days. On the good ones fares had 15 to 40 fish per man. On some trips the fish were in shallow water which meant casting for them. Most are 2 to 5 pounds but every once in awhile they got into some in the 15 to 16 pound range.

CITY ISLAND

Jack's Bait and Tackle felt big news was being made by alligator blues in Eastchester Bay. Biggest fish of the week was a 19¼ lber. and action was steady until Saturday. Trolled surge tubes and snagged, live bunker were most productive. There are some nice porgies at the old CBS Tower and bass to 12 lbs. were taken in the Harts Island and Turtle Cove areas.

GLEN COVE

Dave Watt at the **Glen Cove Sport Shop** said that both Eaton's and Lloyd's were producing a lot of weakfish in the past four days, but there were dead days as well. On Tuesday last, some 40 boats managed only 20 fish in 7 hours, Dave figured. Jelly worms in strawberry and vanilla flavors, drifted on the bottom are best. Watt reminded us that the Glen Cove Anglers are running a Snapper Derby on Saturday, August 15, and that the snappers are getting bigger.

Good porgy fishing still holds off Stehli's Beach, and George Schim is still filling the freezer with big blues from Hempstead Harbor. Last week, Schim managed a 16 lb. 7 oz. blue on a bunker chunk.

HUNTINGTON

Ronnie of **Ronnie's Bait and Tackle** said the bluefishing and weakfishng at Eaton's Neck, the Obstruction Buoy and Lloyd's Pt. remains very good. Tiger Stripe jigs, Tiger Tails and sand worms producing the best scores. Both tides have been productive as well. Some bass being worm trolled at Marshall Field and Cold Spring Harbor at night. Fluke and porgies have been spotty but those that are around are all good sized. Best bet for these is Eaton's Neck.

Packy Collins of the **Ever Ready** told us that the daytime trips were not as good as two weeks ago, but the fishing was still very good by normal standards. Daybreak is most productive now, and weakfish dominate that show. There is still a pick of bluefish anywhere from 1-12 lbs. in the Eatons Triangle. Friday was the highlight of the week with New York Yankee regulars Rudy May, Gene Nelson, and Willie Randolph accounting for 15 blues and one weak. May and Nelson returned from a special Sunday night outing with Hurricane Deckman and the group pulled 26 weaks from 5-12 lbs. between 5PM and dark. Tiger tails were the hot lure on Sunday evening, but TriFin jigs and tubes are the usual standbys.

NORTHPORT

Tom Bowman at **Bowman's** said that the weaks are still there in the Eaton's area, but the techniques for fishing them are trcky. Most successful anglers use jelly worms or jigs with tube teasers, but you "can't just drop down and pick up fish!" Some 25 weaks between 7½ and 10 lbs. were weighed in last week, and most boats that know their stuff pull 5 or 6 fish in an outing. Fortunately, there are a lot of 2-3 lb. blues around for everybody. Time and tide are not specific, however. Bluefish east of Crab Meadow are running 5-10 lbs. and showing on the surface for those fishing Rebels and Poppers. Trollers score with surge tubes and umbrellas. Wire trollers are working up to 3 miles from shore.

KINGS PARK

Helen Koliner at **OK Bait and Tackle** mentioned the blues and weaks off the mouth of the River and off the Lilco plant. Bluefish catches are quite good but porgy action fell off last week. Live eels are the best bet for bass right now.

PORT JEFFERSON

Candy Caraftis at the **Caraftis Fishing Station** spoke of happy

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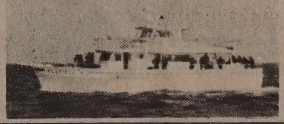

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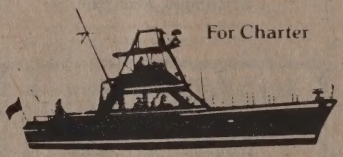

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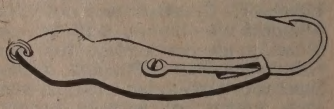

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fishermen and a diversity of action. Snappers are all over, and porgies up to 1½ lb. humpbacks can be found off Oldfield Point. Blues between 3 and 7 lbs. are inside Buoy 11 for those who care to troll or jig, and there are still a few weakfish to be picked by drifting worms. White Beach has been producing lots of fluke with not many throwbacks. Best fish this week was around 6 lbs.

MOUNT SINAI

Dick Brown at **Dick's Sporting Goods** mentioned the "dynamite fluking" off White Beach and the Stratford Shoal. The Miller Place area has not been noted in the past for fluking, but this summer is exceptional. Most fish are 16"-18" with occasional larger fish. Spearing or sand eel-squid combinations are standard. Blues from tailors to 7-8 lbs. are all over, and there are some bass up to 12-15 lbs. with a few weakfish to round out the picture.

North Fork Report

by Martin Garrell

AQUEBOGUE

Ed Kopack at **Warren's Tackle Center** mentioned small 2-5 lb. blues in the Pipeline area as well as 1½ miles off the beach at Horton's. Jigging was the standard technique on these schools. A few small bass showed off the Mattituck Inlet beach last week, but in general the beach action has been dead.

MATTITUCK

Liz at the **Mattituck Inlet Fishing Station** reported that there were a lot of porgies east of the Inlet now, with 1-3 lb. blues in 40 feet of water off the Motel. The fluke numbers off the Mattituck Inlet are still dominated by shorts, and sea bass to 1 lb. are occasionally mixed with the porgies. Several blackfish in the 3-4 lb. class were brought in to the station last week.

NEW SUFFOLK

The Lorias, Phil and Sal, feel that the weakfish run at **Captain Marty's** has just started for the summer. Many catches run 10 fish per boat or more. On Saturday, Isiah Blake and William Tripp from Brooklyn had 21 weaks mixed with a haul of 187 porgies from Rose's Grove, taken on sandworms with chum. Last Wednesday, the Hernandez', Irwin and Felix, and Manuel Cortez hauled some 350 porgies from the Buoy 28 area.

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Myra Lail boated t his 11½ lb. fluke in the rips off of Eaton's Neck. It was checked in at Ronnie's Bait & Tackle.

Biggest weaks seem to be 3-4 lbs., although most are 1½ lb. fish, according to Newt Robbins at **Captain Jim's**. Robbins told us that there are nice porgies on the Middle Grounds as well, and that 7-8 blowfish mixed with a typical porgy catch is not unusual.

SOUTHOLD

Ace Cottral at the **Port of Egypt Station** spoke of good fluke fishing between the Station and Petty's Bight in water between 18' and 30'. Cottral pointed out that draggers cannot work into that area easily, as theydid on the run of fluke last week off Ben's Point, Orient State Park. Dragging eliminated a run of fish that was really solid, there, but it has not cut into the Truman's Beach run, where the action lies anywhere between Orient Shoal and Rocky Point. Porgy action off the Station and in Petty's Bight has been steady, and flounder to 2 lbs. are still close to the Station and on the Bay Side of the Point; flatties are apparently feeding on sand fleas. Southold and Noyac Bays are picking up for porgy fans with some 1 lb. fish, and school weaks showed around buoy 16 with the porgies. South Ferry and Buoy 4, Cedar Point, were mentioned as porgy hot spots.

Coe Harris at the **Southold Fishing Station** said that there were some fluke off Conklin's now, but that the best action was on the Sound in the Bight, where weaks and blues were often mixed in for trollers and jig-fishermen. One catch of some 100 weaks and blues had nothing under 5 lbs. Small shoreline blues to 1½ lbs.

are complimented by larger fish off Rocky Point.

GREENPORT

Charterboat **Prowler II** tells of catching bluefish and fluke in the Sound all week. A party led by Karen Reald loaded up on blues and weaks on diamond jigs at the inshore rip Saturday.

John Sinning at the **AP White Bait Shop** said there was a pick of fluke off the Ruins but the fishing had been better off Truman's Beach. Blues and weaks never show twice at the same spot off the eastern end, but the porgy fishing has been good and steady for the open boats, **Brand X** and **Peconic Star**. The most consistent action on blues, with fish in the 8-12 lb. class, has been off Pigeon Rip, according to both Sinning and George Rainis on the **Blue Albatross**. Rainis felt that there were still a lot of throwback fluke on the Gardiner's Ruins, but that Truman's had plenty of 2-4 lb. fish on the ebb tides. Some weaks were mixed with the blues in Pigeon Rip, too.

South Fork Report

by Stu Miller

SHINNECOCK

Speck's Bait & Tackle says that the Shinnecock Bay fluking remains excellent with fish up to 6 lbs., averaging 1½ to 2 lbs. in Shinnecock Bay and East and West Channels, both tides on sandeels and squid. Flounders remain steady, on the smallish side at the Basket and the west side of the Ponquogue Bridge. In the Peconics, porgies are running ½ to 1 lb. outside Lilly Pond and Roses Grove on worms. Weakfish up to 4 lbs., but picky. Scattered bluefish in the Peconic and Shinnecock Bays on anything. Snappers in all the channels and growing larger. The canal is a mixed bag. Some porgies off Long Beach on worms and clam. Try buoy 11, Cedar Point and Crow Shoals for porgies.

The **Capt Clark II** tells of good porgy action this past week in Peconic Bay, fish in the ¾ to 1 lb. class with sandworms and clam working best. Wednesday saw Charlie Heffner and wife Helen of Bay Shore with over 90 porgies between them and also taking the pool with a 2½ lb. weak. Friday was the best day on summer weakfish with 32 weaks in the 1½ to 4 lb. class taken. This Saturday, Aug. 15th, an ocean wreck trip for sea bass, blacks and flounders is scheduled. Call for ino.

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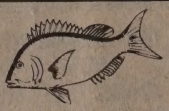

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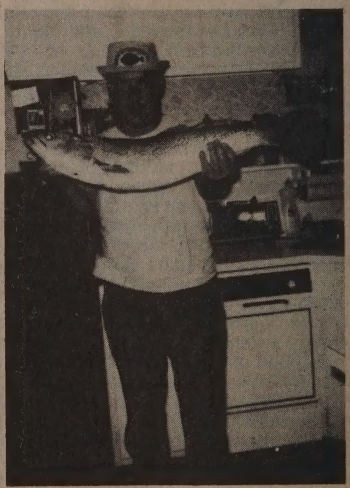
NOYAC

Helen at **Noyac Marina** says there is plenty of porgies of mixed sizes being caught between the Monastery and Buoy 16 off Shelter Island. Snappers are all over the place and growing and are hitting small tins and small shiners on a bobber. Weakfish are increasing in number but there are still alot of throwbacks along with some 4 to 6 pounders. Squid seems to be the preferred bait for anglers fishing between the Monastery and Buoy 16, both tides.

SAG HARBOR

Capt Artie Lach of the **Wilhelric II** reports that Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday's fluke trips worked Gardiners most of the days, then Truman's Beach late in the afternoon. Gardiner's produced more volume but fish on the smaller side while at Truman it was 98 percent keepers with fish running 2 to 5 lbs. Pool fish have generally been in the 6 to 7 lb. class. Catches are averaging 6 to 12 keeper fluke for most fares. Best is at Truman's the first couple of hours of the ebb on sandeels and squid. Try feathers on the hook (white), a la Tri-Fin hairy hooks. On the boat's porgy trips Thursday and Saturday were best with all fares scoring in the 60s and 70s. Sharpies went well into their second bucket by the end of the day. The other days things were a little slower. Porgies are bigger at Gardiner's but fewer. For quantity the boat is fishing Cedar Point, Crow Shoals and south of Plum on clam and squid, both tides producing. Artie says he is still carrying light on weekends and that he's got plenty of room on the boat Saturdays and Sundays.



This 10 lb. weakfish came from the Eaton's Neck area. Chris Stuven used a diamond jig to take this fish as well as several others.

Surf Report

by Fred Golofaro

While a concerted lack of effort on the part of many Long Island surfmen, including yours truly, might partly explain the lack of surf news, there was no denying that the overall surf picture is stinko! Proponents of the full moon theory should awake from their summer lethargy for this week's moon and hopefully, this will result in a few stimulating reports next week. As always, there were a few fish caught here and there but being in the right place at the right time is the equivalent of hitting the lottery. Here's how things shaped up.

In Fire Island area, casters have been picking away at weaks from 3-5 lbs. on Strawberry Jelly worms and tin. An occasional larger fish on live snappers. Over at Democrat Poin, a few weaks being taken after dark on sand worms with an occasional flurry of small blues during the early Am or in the evening on tin.

Out at Moriches, Dick of Dick's Bait and Tackle in Mastic told me that a few bass from 20-30 lbs. were taken on the east side of the inlet late last week by casters using sandworms. The weakfishing at Smith's Point which we referred to in last week's column has tapered off to nothing. There have been occasional medium size blues taken on bunker chunks along the Smith's Point Shore.

From Speck's Bait and Tackle in Shinnecock, Thom spoke of a 37¾ lb. striper weighed in Friday morning for Carl Piazza . The cow was taken on a bunker. Thom knew of several other fish in the 20s taken in the east jetty area, also on bunker this past week. Otherwise the surf has been dead, with no word of any bluefish or weakfish action along the sand beaches.

Johnny Kronuch who reigns ove r the counter at Johnny's Bait and Tackle in Montauk reported that the Montauk area has been almost void of action although there has not been a whole lot of effort put forth by casters. The only fish he knew of this past week were one small bass and one small blue taken by a caster at Rocky Point. After speaking to John, Mike Kalin of the Striper Surf Club called to report that fellow club member Jack Driscoll repeated his success of two weeks ago at Montauk. Same tide, same spot he took a 20 lb. class fish. This past Saturday he took an 18¼ lber. The fish was taken on a white darter at North Bar Saturday night at 2AM in a pouring rain.

Moving over to the north shore, Greg at City Island Bait and Tackle said that on Thursday and Friday a school of big blues between 12-17 lbs. hit the beach between Rodman's Neck and Orchard Beach. Casters used cut bunker to take the fish. Angelo Santiago checked in 3 of the big choppers. His largest was a 17½ lber. Greg noted that the fish never did show over the weekend to the disappointment of many anglers.

Blues from 2-5 lbs. with an occasional weak or bass continue to roam the beaches along Miller Place. This, according to Dick of Dicks Sporting Goods in Mt. Sinai. Best action has been in the evenings and the early morning hours with tins and popping plugs both being effective on the blues.

To the east Stan told me from his Rocky Point Fishing Stop that other than an occasional small bass and a few blues from 1-4 lbs. in the early AM and evening things have been pretty quiet. He did have one odd occurrence to report. It seems that between 2 and 3 in the afternoon on Sunday bathers found themselves surrounded by big bass at Shoreham beach and at the Wading River town beach. Stan got his report from several frantic customers who stormed into the store in search of big plugs. Stan had no word that any of the fish were taken by anyone.

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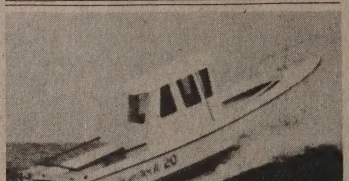

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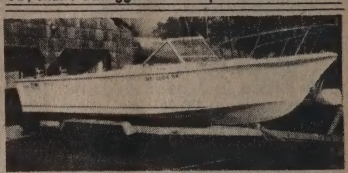

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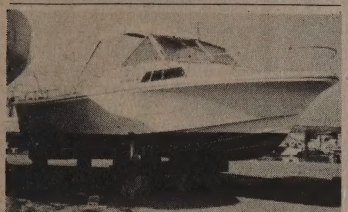

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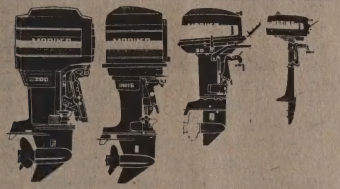

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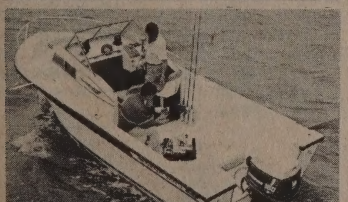

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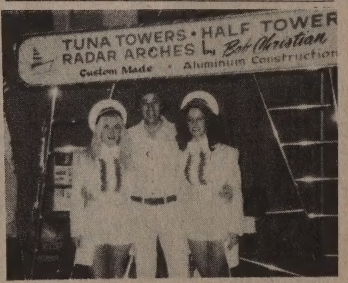

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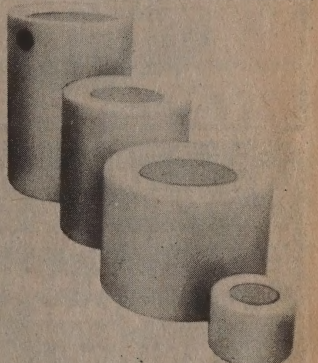

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FLUKE KILLER RIGS—Beware of imitations. The ultimate in deadly, double hook design. Long the secret of the Pros. You will hook more & lose fewer fluke since fish can't avoid fully adjustable 'tail hook. All hand tied; finest materials. Pays for itself in fluke dinners. 3 rigs - $3.50. P. Miller, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, NY 11566.

Continued On Next Page

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SUMMER DOCKAGE—Now taking reservations: $16 per ft. 23' limit. Five minutes from Shinnecock Inlet. Also have a small selection of select brokerage boats for sale. SUNSHINE MARINE, 23 Rampasture Rd., Hampton Bays, N.Y. 11946. 516-728-1339.

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REAL ESTATE

BAIT & Tackle Shops bought & sold. We handle all sizes in all locations. V.R. "The Business Store," 692-7500.

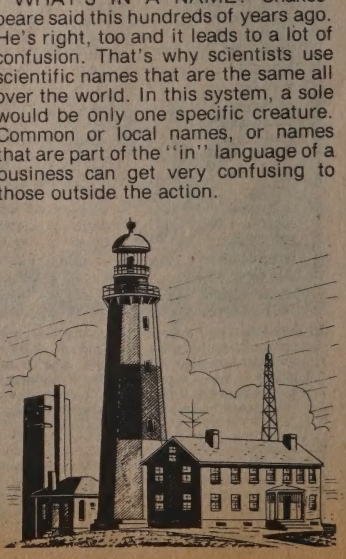
FISH TALK:

(Continued from page 8.)

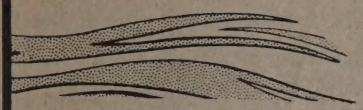
Apparently he didn't know either. I have been an avid reader of LIF for more than ten years and except for one article by Dr. Grell, where he compared summer flounder (fluke) to Dover sole, I cannot recall reading anything about sole in LIF. I suspect it might be a yellowtail flounder which is sold in the billions of pounds, but I'd like to know exactly what I'm buying when I buy sole."

A SOLE IS A SOLE? The group of fish that are often called sole are, of course, flatfish. In general, the fish that get the name "sole" are slightly more rounded than, let's say our blackback flounder or fluke. Most of these are taken in cold North Atlantic waters. However, we do have a shallow water species on Long Island. It is a rather small sole, it has a small mouth, isn't caught with hook and line, and has little commercial value. It's called a hog choker. It is indeed very hard to know what you're buying when you go into a fish store. Weakfish become sea trout, tilefish are sold under several names, etc. I agree with you and suspect that most of the time sole is yellowtail flounder. Perhaps lemon sole is the bottom or white side of the fish, and grey sole is the top (dorsal) side of the fish. Even with blackback founder the flesh from the belly side will be whiter than the flesh from the backside. The whiter meat of the belly side is more attractive to the consumer and therefore higher in price. I once overheard a commercial fisherman say that he was amazed that the consumer would rather spend four dollars a pound for sole than one dollar a pound for many other fish that even taste better. He attributed this to habit, preferences of appearance, preferences of name, etc.

WHAT'S IN A NAME? Shakespeare said this hundreds of years ago. He's right, too and it leads to a lot of confusion. That's why scientists use scientific names that are the same all over the world. In this system, a sole would be only one specific creature. Common or local names, or names that are part of the "in" language of a business can get very confusing to those outside the action.



High Tide Tables



How to use tide tables:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet...–0 50" is listed under "ON SANDY HOOK." –0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6¼ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK		Breakwater Harbor		NEW YORK		NEW LONDON		WILLETS POINT		BRIDGE-PORT		NEWPORT		DATE
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	
THUR.	6:55	7:15	7:45	8:05	7:45	7:55	8:35	8:40	10:55	10:40	10:20	10:35	6:50	7:10	8/13
FRI.	7:40	8:00	8:25	8:45	8:25	8:35	9:15	9:25	11:20	11:15	11:05	11:15	7:35	7:50	8/14
SAT.	8:20	8:40	9:10	9:25	9:05	9:15	9:55	10:05	11:45	11:50	11:45	–	8:15	8:35	8/15
SUN.	9:05	9:20	9:50	10:10	9:45	9:55	10:35	10:50	–	12:20	12:00	12:25	9:00	9:20	8/16
MON.	9:45	10:05	10:30	10:50	10:25	10:35	11:15	11:30	12:30	1:00	12:40	1:10	9:45	10:05	8/17
TUE.	10:30	10:50	11:15	11:30	11:10	11:25	–	12:00	1:15	1:40	1:25	1:50	10:30	10:50	8/18
WED.	11:20	11:40	–	12:00	–	12:00	12:20	12:50	2:00	2:25	2:10	2:40	11:15	11:40	8/19
THUR.	–	12:10	12:20	12:50	12:15	12:55	1:10	1:40	2:50	3:15	3:05	3:25	–	12:10	8/20

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	–0 01
Red Bank, Navesink, R.I.	+0 48
Long Branch	–0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	–0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	–0 12
Seaside Park	–0 33
Mantoloking zbridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	–0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	–0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	–0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 46
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	–0 02
Rehoboth Beach	–0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	–0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	–0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Harts Cove	+1 30
Pontunck Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	–0 38
Democrat Point	–0 38
Coast Guard Station	–0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	–0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+0 38
JFK Airport	+0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	–0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	–0 08
Herod Point	–0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 19
Horton Point	–0 20
Truman Beach	–0 42
Falkner Island	–0 13
Sachem Head	–0 10
Branford Harbor	–0 07
New Haven Harbor	–0 08
Milford Harbor	–0 07
Stratford	+0 27
Shelton	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor	–0 03
Saugatuck River	–0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	–0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land	–0 14
Montauk Inlet	–0 25
Montauk Point	–1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington	–0 33
Noank, Mystic River	–0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	–0 01
Norwich	+0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+1 10
Lyme	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	–0 10
Execution Light	–0 06
Manhasset Bay	–0 01
Hempstead Harbor	–0 11
City Island	–0 03
Rye Beach	–0 28
Port Chester	–0 09
Mamaroneck	–0 08
New Rocheele	–0 24
Davids Island	–0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	–0 10
Miami Beach	+1 17
East Point	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	–0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Missillion River Ent.	+0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburg	+3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	–0 10
Tiverton	+0 21
Beavertail Point	–0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+0 10
Bristol	+0 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayett Point	+0 12
Pawtucket	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	–0 08
Point Judith Harbor	–0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Old Harbor	–0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

8/14	6:06	8:02
8/15	6:07	8:01
8/16	6:09	7:59
8/17	6:10	7:58
8/18	6:11	7:56
8/19	6:12	7:55
8/20	6:13	7:53

Moonrise/Moonset

8/14	7:32PM	4:45AM
8/15	8:11PM	5:48AM
8/16	8:47PM	6:54AM
8/17	9:20PM	8:02AM
8/18	9:52PM	9:10AM
8/19	10:24PM	10:19AM
8/20	10:57PM	11:29AM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr	FULL	2nd Qtr.
8/29	8/7	8/15	8/22

The Original Knight
SOLUNAR TABLES
When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for this week as printed below have been taken from the original ***KNIGHT SOLUNAR TABLES.*** Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type face.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	3:45	9:50	4:00	10:15
Fri.	4:30	10:40	4:50	11:05
Sat.	5:20	11:25	5:35	11:50
Sun.	6:05	—	6:30	12:20
Mon.	7:05	12:50	7:45	1:30
Tues.	7:55	1:45	8:25	2:10
Wed.	8:50	2:40	9:20	3:05
Thurs.	9:45	3:35	10:15	4:00

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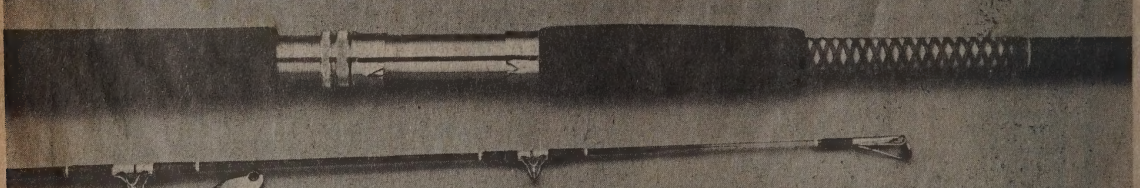

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The result: A big-water rod so strong, it can outfight most any fish that swims. Yet so light, you can fish all day without tiring.

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